Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-069
Monday
11 April 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-069 *11 April 1994*

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Talks Resume in Cairo 1
'Abd-Rabbuh: Talks in 'Death Throes' *[Cairo Radio]* 1
Israeli Team Leaves for Cairo *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1
Israelis Arrive in Cairo *[MENA]* 1
Talks Resume in Cairo *[Cairo Radio]* 1
Discussions on Police, Security *[MENA]* 1
Sha'th: Israelis 'Wasting Time' *[Cairo Radio]* 2
'Progress' Reported in Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Sha'th: Negotiations 'Positive' *[Cairo Radio]* 3
Sha'th: 'Many Positive Things' in Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Sha'th: 'Impossible' To Meet Self-Rule Target *[AFP]* 3
Negotiations Resume Again *[MENA]* 4
PLO's 'Arafat Accuses Israel of 'Maneuvering' 4
Interview With Spanish Radio *[Madrid Radio]* 4
Interview With Japanese TV *[Tokyo NHK TV]* 4
Cited on Tunisian Radio *[Tunis Radio]* 5
'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Message to UK, France *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Qaddumi Noncommittal on Chances for Talks' Success *[Sanaa VOP]* 5
PLO's 'Abbas Arrives 'To Add Impetus' to Talks *[AFP]* 5
Al-Surani: Talks Not To Lead to 'Honest' Implementation *[London AL-HAYAH 6 Apr]* 6
Paper Reports on 'Secret' Omani-Israeli Water Talks *[London AL-HAYAH 7 Apr]* 6
Israeli Team Leaves for Oman *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges U.S. To Increase Efforts for Self-Rule *[AFP]* 7
'Arafat Meets Palestinian Police Coordinator *[Algiers VOP]* 7
'Arafat Cited on Economic Situation, Workers *[MENA]* 7
PLO's Sha'th on Cairo Talks, 'Afula, Ashdod *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 8
'Arafat Adviser on 'Afula, Denouncing 'Terrorist Acts' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 9
'Arafat Adviser Reponds to Peres' Afula Remarks *[Algeirs VOP]* 10
DFLP, PFLP Leadership Demands 'Arafat Resignation *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
PLO's al-Najjab on 'Afula, Israeli 'Redeployment' *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Apr]* 10
Commentary: Israel Responsible for 'Afula Bombing *[Sanaa VOP]* 11
Paper Defends PLO Reluctance To Condemn 'Afula Killings
[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 8 Apr] 11
PFLP Reacts to Alleged Gun-Smuggling Incident *[AL-BILAD 6 Apr]* 12
Islamic Jihad Leader Rules Out Palestinian In-Fighting *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 13
Hamas Official: Rocket Threats Not 'Cheap Propaganda' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

President Accepts Resignation of Malek's Government *[AFP]* 14
Government Devalues Dinar by 40.17 Percent *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Economy Minister on Devaluation *[Algiers TV]* 14
Spokesman Explains Government Meeting *[Algiers TV]* 15
Reportage on Violence, Security Activities 16
UGTA Official Assassinated *[Algiers Radio]* 16

HAMAS Activist Assassinated *[Algiers Radio]* 16
'Terrorists' Eliminated, 40 Arrested *[Algiers TV]* 16
Security Kills 4, Arrests 4 *[Algiers Radio]* 16

Egypt

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasanov Visits 16
Meets With Mubarak *[Baku TV]* 16
Meets With Musa, Departs *[MENA]* 16
PLO's 'Arafat Concludes Visit, Departs *[MENA]* 16
Foreign Minister Confers With PLO Officials *[MENA]* 16
Musa Phones OAU Official on Rwanda, Comments on Yemen *[MENA]* 17
Information Minister, UAE Minister Leave for Sanaa *[MENA]* 17
Ministers Return From Trip *[MENA]* 17
Senior Security Official Killed in al-Jizah *[MENA]* 17
Islamic Group Claims Killing *[AFP]* 18
Noncommissioned Police Officer Killed in Asyut *[MENA]* 18
Musa, PRC Ambassador Discuss Mideast, Korea *[MENA]* 18

Libya

Chad Interior, Defense Ministers End Visit *[JANA]* 19
JANA: America Suffering From 'Power-Mania' 19

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Ties With Egypt, U.S. *[AL-SHA'B 1 Apr]* 19
Abu-Salih on U.S., UK 'Plot' To Divide Country *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 11 Apr]* 19
Minister: Khartoum Not To Change Stand Toward Iraq *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 3 Apr]* 20
Army Command Urges University Graduates To Enlist *[MENA]* 21

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Chamber of Deputies Address *[Tunis Radio]* 21
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Bosnia *[Tunis Radio]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Trade Ministers Open Trade Committee Session *[SPA]* 23

Kuwait

Government Resigns Prior to Reshuffle *[KUNA]* 23
Foreign Minister on Resignation *[KUNA]* 23
Defense Minister on Iraqi Threat, Arms Deals *[ARAB TIMES 2 Apr]* 23
Chinese Envoy Voices Support for Rights *[KUNA]* 25

Qatar

Israeli Delegation Due in Doha for Arms Talks 2-5 May *[AFP]* 25

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Troops Enter Yemeni Territory *[SPA]* 26

Yemen

U.S. 'Information' Reportedly Foils Assassination Plot *[AL-ASWAQ 9 Apr]* 26
Egyptian, UAE Ministers Arrive With Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
Salih Receives Ministers *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
Committees Visit Dhamar, Report Situation 'Normal' *[Sanaa Radio]* 27

IRAQ

Attacks Against Regime Forces in South Reported *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 28
Turkish 'Warplanes' Reportedly Attack Kurd Villages *[Voice of People of Kurdistan]* 28
Air Force Head in Amman To Oversee 'Secret Air Bases' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Apr]* 28
Bombs Reportedly Explode Near 2 Ministries in Baghdad *[AFP]* 28
Bombing Reported in Irbil Mosque; 'Agents' Confess *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 29
'Vital' Buildings at Imam 'Ali Air Base Set on Fire *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 29
Air Force Chief Recovers From Amman Hotel Fire Injuries *[AL-MAJD 11 Apr]* 29
Governor's, District Officer's Headquarters Attacked *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 29
Opposition Radio Claims 2 Intelligence Officers Killed *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 29
Military Maneuvers Reportedly Planned in North *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 29
Ranking Military Officer Defects to U.S. *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 2 Apr]* 30
Al-Sahhaf on Sanctions, U.S., French Ties *[Paris Radio]* 30
Assembly Begins Spring Term; Speaker Assails U.S. *[Baghdad Radio]* 31
Baghdad Protests Saudi, Kuwaiti Bases for Allied Aircraft *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
Mosul Reported 'Tense'; Opposition To Meet 16 Apr *[Voice of People of Kurdistan]* 32
Ba'th Party Official Returns From Visit to Russia *[INA]* 32
Cuban Official on Visit to Iraq, Bilateral Talks *[AL-THAWRAH 3 Apr]* 32
Khudayyir Reaffirms Support for India on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 33
Foreign Ministry Source Cited on New Diplomatic Move *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Apr]* 33
Saddam Urges 'Nonstop Work' on al-Basrah Water Project *[AL-THAWRAH 6 Apr]* 33

ISRAEL

Rabin on Need for Political Solution, Security *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Says Settlements To Remain *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Cabinet Defers Decision on Duration of Closure *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Ministers Hint Closure Intended To Pressure 'Arafat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
PLO's Call for Permanent Status Talks Rejected *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Peres: No Talks on Permanent Status of Territories *[Jerusalem TV]* 37
Observers' Advance Team Meets With Hebron Mayor *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Obervers Comment on Mandate *[AFP]* 38
Meetings Between Hamas, IDF Officers Disclosed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 10 Apr]* 39
Army Preparing for Hamas Threat To Launch Missiles *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Hamas Renews Threat To Kill Jewish Settlers *[AFP]* 39
IDF Officers Train for Patrols With Palestinians *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
IDF Resumes Full Operation in Gaza Refugee Camps *[HA'ARETZ 10 Apr]* 40
Five IDF Soldiers Lightly Wounded in Gaza *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
Soldiers Kill Arab Youth, Wound Others *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Soldiers Kill Ax-Wielding 'Terrorist' at Checkpoint *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Arab Stabs Jewish Woman in East Jerusalem *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
Ninth Settler Jailed Under Administrative Detention *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Kakh's Marzel Receives 3-Month Sentence for Rioting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Court Ruling Prompts Police Commissioner To Resign *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Unarmed Infiltrators Caught Near Jordanian Border *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Four Iraqis Seek Asylum *[AFP]* 41
Study Completed on Border Demarcation With Jordan *[HA'ARETZ 6 Apr]* 41
Beilin on Visit to Oman, Participation Parameters *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Calls Visit 'Leap Forward' on Boycott *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Minister Harish Travels To Morocco for GATT Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42

JORDAN

YSP Official Comments on Yemeni Situation, Visit *[Amman Radio]* 43
Yemeni Education Minister al-Qirbi Visits 43
Arrives With Letter for al-Majali *[Amman Radio]* 43
Meets With Al-Majali *[Amman Radio]* 43
Concludes Visit, Departs *[Amman Radio]* 44
Paper Defends 'Arafat's Stand on 'Afula Killings *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Apr]* 44
Members to Joint Committees With PLO Named *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Apr]* 44

LEBANON

Papal Nuncio Announces Pope Postpones Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Lebanese Forces Implicated in Plot To Kill President *[London MBC TV]* 46
Roundup of Security Activities, Conflicts in South 46
Missiles, Arms Seized Near LF Center *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Kafra, Yatar Shelled; Lahd Unit Ambushed *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Rockets, Shells Hit 'Security Zone' *[AFP]* 46
Army Seizes Palestinian Arms *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Israeli Shelling, Overflights, Gunboats *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Palestinians Attack SLA *[AFP]* 47
Iqlim al-Tuffah Shelled; Israeli Overflights *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Israeli Gunboat Halts German Ship *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Israelis Shell Areas *[Beirut Radio]* 47
'Terrorists' Fire at SLA, IDF Positions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Shells Kill 3 'Resistance Fighters' *[Beirut Radio]* 47
SLA Kills 3, Wounds 3 PFLP Members *[VOS]* 48
SLA Shells 'Terrorist' Cell *[VOS]* 48
Israeli Planes, Copters Overfly South *[Beirut Radio]* 48
Israels Wound 2; More Air Sorties *[Beirut Radio]* 48

SYRIA

Yemeni Presidential Council Delegation Visits 49
Requests Help To End Crisis *[MENA]* 49
Meets With Khaddam *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Meets With al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Concludes Visit, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Austrian President Klestil, Delegation Visit 49
Klestil Meets With al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Foreign Minister Mock, al-Shar' Meet *[Damascus TV]* 50
Al-Asad, Klestil Discuss Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Al-Asad, Klestil Resume Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Further on al-Asad's, Klestil Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Economic Talks Held *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Klestil Receives Khaddam *[Damascus TV]* 50
Klestil 'Disappointed' With al-Asad Attitude *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 11 Apr]* 51
Radio Warns No Peace Without Full Israeli Withdrawal *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Press: Israel's 'Terrorism' Source of Area Tension *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Radio: Oslo Accord Will Not Achieve Israeli Security *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Press on Israel's 'Military Siege' of Territories *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Commentary Questions U.S. 'Honesty,' 'Neutrality' *[Damascus Radio]* 54

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar-Dostam Offensive Reportedly Repelled *[Kabul Radio]* 56

India

U.S. Cautioned About Giving F-16's to Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Envoy to U.S.: Pakistan 'Continues To Interfere' *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Minister: Government Not To Slow Down Missile Program *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Official: Russia Against Interference in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Mojahedin Reportedly Kill Soldiers in Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 57
Kashmiri Leaders, Rao Discuss Future Political Process *[Delhi Radio]* 57
15 People Reportedly Killed in Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 57
Kashmiri Leaders Praise Pakistani Support *[Islamabad TV]* 58
Radio Sums Up Developments in Kashmir Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Press Reports Kashmir Militants Attack Pakistan Army *[Delhi TV]* 58

Preparations Under Way for Rao Visit To U.S. *[ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA 19 Mar]* 58
Accord Signed With Cuba for Scientists' Training *[Delhi Radio]* 59
D'Souza Reinstalled as Chief Minister of Goa *[Delhi Radio]* 59
INSAT 2-C To Use KU Band To Receive Signals From Satellites *[Delhi Radio]* 60

Iran

Tehran Friday Prayers First Sermon Condemns U.S. 'Crimes' *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Jannati Friday Prayers Second Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Qom Second Friday Sermon on Relations With U.S. *[Tehran TV]* 61
Editorial Criticizes Yazdi's Sermon on Hajj *[KEYHAN 4 Apr]* 62
Yemeni Foreign Minister Basindwah Visits 63
Commentary on Visit *[Tehran International]* 63
Meets With President *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Meets With Other Officials *[Sanaa Radio]* 64
Concludes Visit *[IRNA]* 64
Editorial Assails U.S. Policy on Fighting Drug Trade *[TEHRAN TIMES 5 Apr]* 64
Antidrug Fight 'Success'; U.S. Statement Denounced *[IRNA]* 65
Official Gives Details of Seizures of Drugs *[IRNA]* 65
Opposition Leader Rajavi Urges Escalation of Protests *[AL-THAWRAH 30 Mar]* 66
Majles Speaker Rowhani Meets Lebanon's Islamic Leader *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Tehran, Havana Sign Memorandum of Understanding *[IRNA]* 66
Majles Passes Bill To Merge Three Ministries *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Kurdish Radio on Amassing Forces in Kordestan *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 66
Paris Embassy Denies Arms Supplied to Algeria's FIS *[IRNA]* 67
ABRAR Criticizes Minister's Remarks on Satellite Antennae *[5 Apr]* 67

Pakistan

Foreign Secretary on Nuclear Talks With Talbott *[Islamabad International]* 68
Accord Signed for Purchase of 6 PRC K-8 Jet Trainers *[Islamabad TV]* 68
Iran's Nateq-Nuri Arrives for Economic, Political Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Meets Prime Minister Bhutto *[Islamabad TV]* 68
Financial Market, Assembly Ties Outlined *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Meets With Leghari *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Addresses National Assembly *[Tehran Radio]* 69
UN Emissary, President Discuss Finding Afghan Solution *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Indians Fire at Azad Kashmir Villages; 1 Killed, 4 Wounded *[Islamabad Radio]* 69

Sri Lanka

Official Blames LTTE for Bombing of Colombo Hotels *[AFP]* 70

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Talks Resume in Cairo

'Abd-Rabbuh: Talks in 'Death Throes'

NC1004063994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli talks on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement will resume in Cairo today. The Palestinian side will be chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser. The Israeli side will be chaired by General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff.

Shim'on Peres stated that there is a great possibility of completing the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho at the end of the current month. Peres said in an interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ that the forces of the Israeli army have started withdrawing from the autonomy area.

Last night, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a meeting with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas.

The foreign minister stated after the meeting that the meeting is part of the framework of the continuing Palestinian-Egyptian coordination in the peace process. He said that they discussed the current stage of the peace talks, which will resume this morning. He said this new round of talks will continue for two or three days, after which the two sides will be able to set the date for starting implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh stated yesterday that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles is in its death throes. 'Abd-Rabbuh demanded that immediate talks should be started on the final position of all the occupied territories. He said that autonomy talks with Israel cannot continue because it wants total hegemony over the Palestinian police force in the occupied territories.

Israeli Team Leaves for Cairo

TA1004064494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] An Israeli delegation headed by Major General Amnon Shahaq left a short time ago for Cairo to continue the deliberations with the Palestinians. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that heading the agenda will be the deployment of the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho.

Israelis Arrive in Cairo

NC1004085094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—The Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli talks on implementing the Palestinian autonomy agreement in Gaza and Jericho arrived in Cairo this morning.

The delegation consists of 35 members and is headed by General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff.

Talks Resume in Cairo

NC1004112194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Palestinian-Israeli talks on ratifying the Gaza-Jericho agreement resumed in Cairo today.

The Palestinian side was chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, and the Israeli side was chaired by General Amnon Shahaq, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Discussions on Police, Security

NC1004140694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—A new round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho resumed at noon today in Cairo. The Palestinian side is chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, and Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff.

Responsible Palestinian sources said that this round of negotiations, which will continue until the day after tomorrow, Tuesday, started with a closed meeting between the heads of the Palestinian and the Israeli delegations to set the agenda for the talks. Then, the meetings of the Security, Civilian, and Legal Affairs Committees started.

Responsible Palestinian sources told MENA that the Security Affairs Committee will mainly discuss a withdrawal schedule for the Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho region. It will also discuss the agenda for the entry of the Palestinian police force. The number of men in this force will range between 9,000 and 10,000 men. This was the reason for the breakdown of the negotiations last week.

The same sources said that the Palestinian side proposed the possibility of the Israeli forces' withdrawal during a period ranging between seven days to less than two weeks starting from the date the final agreement is signed.

The sources added that the two sides will also discuss a number of other issues dealing with the security arrangements in the autonomy areas, the security of the settlements, and issues pertaining to the security zones around these settlements. These are all issues that were not finalized during the previous rounds of talks.

The Palestinian sources added that another issue under discussion is the return of Palestinian deportees expelled by the Israeli authorities after 1967 on the pretext that they were carrying out actions hostile to the Israeli occupation. They are estimated at around 2,200 deportees.

Israel has already taken back 200 deportees in several groups since the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was signed in Washington in September 1993. The Palestinian negotiators are demanding the return of all deportees to their homeland as soon as possible.

The Palestinian sources denied that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have agreed on a timetable for the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Israeli jails, estimated to number about 10,400 prisoners according to the statistics of the International Committee of the Red Cross. They also denied that the Palestinians have agreed to exclude Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] detainees from the release agreement. They affirmed that the PLO insists on the release of all Palestinian detainees.

The Palestinian-Israeli Civilian Affairs Committee is due to discuss in its meeting today the transfer of authorities, services, and utilities to the Palestinian side. An important issue under discussion is the transfer of authority over water resources.

The Israelis have said that this issue was not discussed at previous meetings because no Palestinian water experts were present. The Palestinians and Israelis agree that considerable progress has been made in the discussions of the Civilian Affairs Committee over the past several rounds of talks, leaving only a few minor points of disagreements. They pointed out, however, that an overall agreement in the negotiations cannot be attained until the two delegations sort out their security differences.

The Palestinian sources pointed out that if no progress is made in the current round of talks, seen to be revolving in a vicious circle, then it will be imperative to hold a meeting of high-level officials from both parties to remove the current obstacles. Consequently, it is likely that a meeting will be held in Cairo next Sunday [17 April] between PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas "Abu-Mazin" and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. It should be noted that Mahmud 'Abbas is currently in Cairo, closely following the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations while holding talks with Egyptian officials. 'Abbas held a lengthy meeting with the members of the Palestinian delegation to agree on the negotiating method in the current round of talks.

The Palestinian sources announced that the Palestinian-Israeli Legal Affairs Committee, one of the committees formed by the Gaza- Jericho meetings, will discuss today the wording of the general agreement and the legal text of the articles already agreed upon by the two delegations.

Sha'th: Israelis 'Wasting Time'

NC1004144694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, made a statement to reporters today before the negotiations began in Cairo accusing the Israelis of wasting time by discussing the details of the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the implementation of the limited Palestinian autonomy there.

He added that by constantly placing impediments before the Palestinian negotiators, the Israelis are making it impossible to sign the agreement on 13 April, the deadline set by the Palestinian- Israeli Declaration of Principles.

'Progress' Reported in Talks

TA1104053794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Progress was made in the Cairo negotiations with the Palestinians, which continued until very late last night, although there is doubt the talks will be concluded by 13 April. Our correspondent in Cairo Arye Gus reports that the Palestinians are making efforts to reach an agreement by that date.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 11 April adds that "from Tunis we have word that chances are slim for a meeting in Bucharest this week between Foreign Minister Peres and Yasir 'Arafat."]

In the discussions of the civilian affairs committee, agreement was reached on archaeology, fuel, and environment issues. The team is to discuss the water problems today. There is still dispute regarding jurisdiction over temporary residents and tourists.

The military committee resumed discussions on the deployment of the Palestinian police, the foreign observers, and the joint patrols. The Palestinians demanded that the closure be lifted and that prisoners be released.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 11 April adds in a related report from Cairo by Udi Segal: "The PLO has asked that Israel set a date for signing the Gaza and Jericho agreement. The Palestinian delegates in Cairo made it clear that until such a date is set, they will not begin the deployment of the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho, but the Israelis refused to set such a date. Furthermore, they made it absolutely clear to the Palestinians that 13 April is no longer a target date of any kind.

["The Palestinians tried to apply pressure last night and force Israel to make some gesture or symbolic move on 13 April, but the Israelis stood firm, explaining that no move will be made because the PLO has not taken even a single step to show it is willing to implement the agreement. Had the Palestinians started to deploy their police force and assume some control of the territory, we could have considered such a move, an Israeli delegate told us late last night. In the meantime, they have done nothing of the sort.

["Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the delegation, told his Palestinian counterparts last night that the time when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will complete its

withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho depends only on them. Shahaq said: on an operational level, we are able to complete the withdrawal, but until you take up your positions, we remain in charge."]

Sha'th: Negotiations 'Positive'

NC1104060094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of the self-rule agreement will resume in Cairo this morning, just days before the date set for the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on 13 April. The two sides held talks all day yesterday, with chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th describing the negotiations as positive. But Sha'th declined to give any details of progress in the talks.

Sha'th: 'Many Positive Things' in Talks

JN1104111394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, by Sa'id Mu'addi in Cairo on 11 April; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] How do you evaluate the first day of negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides?

[Sha'th] I think many positive things were realized today, but we cannot say yet that something has been achieved. As you know, we are late, and we wanted and still want to complete our work before 13 April, and to sign the agreement as scheduled. This led us to call for not delaying the talks and to do what has to be done to conclude this agreement. Nevertheless, I say that the first day was not bad, and some positive things have taken place.

[Mu'addi] What subjects were discussed today?

[Sha'th] All issues were discussed. We discussed the subject of the Palestinian police, its armament, and number. We discussed security in the Gaza Strip. In the Legal Committee, we discussed issues relating to legal and judicial jurisdiction. We also discussed the transfer of civilian powers. We discussed the freeing of prisoners. I believe we made important progress on the full plan for releasing prisoners. I also believe that we made progress regarding civilian powers. Perhaps, we will be able before the end of this round to announce some specific achievements. We also strongly demanded an end to this security blockade that closed the doors before our people in the West Bank and Gaza, especially in Jerusalem, and threatened their livlihoods and business dealings at a stage that cannot tolerate much obstruction. We also discussed the need to end the security blockade and curfew in Hebron that suffered much after the Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre. Perhaps, we will be able to make some achievements in this field too.

[Mu'addi] Will the negotiations resume next Sunday?

[Sha'th] Yes, we will stay here, and if we fail to conclude our talks tomorrow, we will resume the talks next week.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, one final question. When will the vanguards of the Palestinian police arrive in the Gaza Strip?

[Sha'th] This is one of the subjects that we are discussing. I believe that large numbers will start to arrive soon after the agreement is signed, and this is what we want to do as soon as possible.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, thank you very much.

[Sha'th) Thank you.

Sha'th: 'Impossible' To Meet Self-Rule Target

NC1104100394 Paris AFP in English 0946 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, April 11 (AFP)—The PLO chief negotiator acknowledged here Monday that it was now impossible to meet the target date for launching Palestinian self-rule with just two days to go, despite progress in talks with Israel.

"I don't think we can resolve (the outstanding issues) by April 13," although there has been "progress Sunday in talks on jurisdiction" in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, Nabil Sha'th told AFP.

Sha'th said the Israeli delegation had presented new proposals for jurisdiction in Gaza and Jericho "which could open the way to real progress."

Under the Declaration of Principles signed between Israel and the PLO in September, Israel was to have started its withdrawal from the two areas on December 13 and was to complete it by April 13.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has insisted that Wednesday's deadline should be met.

In a phone call to US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, he urged Washington to step up efforts to ensure the success of the talks, warning a failure to meet the target date would harm the credibility of the peace process.

Talks reopened Sunday in the Egyptian capital after a four-day break and are due to continue until Tuesday in a bid to wrap up an accord on implementing Palestinian autonomy.

Sha'th added there had been progress both on prisoners and on security matters, including the deployment of a 9,000-strong Palestinian police force to take over from the Israeli army when it withdraws.

Security issues have bogged down over a date and timetable for an Israeli pull-out, and the deployment of the Palestinian police.

He also said the two sides had "come close" to agreement on the release of around 10,000 Palestinian prisoners being held in Israeli jails.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation is demanding the release of all prisoners, including Islamic militants.

But Israel has refused to free members of militant organisations such as the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) or the Islamic Jihad, and those responsible for bloody attacks on Israelis.

Asked Monday if Islamic militants would be included in an agreement, Sha'th said: "All the prisoners are going to be scheduled for release one day or another. We represent all the Palestinian people."

Meanwhile Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin charged that Arafat was to blame for the delay in implementing Palestinian autonomy.

"Israel did not suspend the negotiations after the car-bomb attack in Afula unlike Yasir 'Arafat did after the Hebron massacre," Rabin told state radio.

"That is why we are not to blame for the loss of time in the negotiations," he said, after the Palestinians expressed exasperation at the failure to launch autonomy on time.

Sha'th added that the committee negotiating the transfer of civilian matters had on Sunday decided on all the agenda items under discussion, except for the thorny issue of water resources.

Negotiations Resume Again

NC1104103494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0947 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement resumed here again today. The Palestinian delegation to the negotiations is being led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, and the Israeli delegation by Amnon Shahaq, deputy Israeli chief of staff.

The Security, Civilian, and Legal Affairs Committees are meeting during this round of negotiations.

PLO's 'Arafat Accuses Israel of 'Maneuvering'

Interview With Spanish Radio

LD0804224294 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Report on interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by correspondent del Campo in Tunis on 8 April]

[Text] [Announcer] Returning to the international news again, we go to Tunisia where the headquarters of the PLO is. There, barely an hour ago, a Radio Nacional de Espana special correspondent was able to interview the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat at a crucial moment for the history of the Middle East, following the recent explosions of violence, threatening the whole peace process. Gloria del Campo is in Tunisia. Good evening. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent del Campo] Good evening. I have to say at the outset that the interview was with a group of 14 European and Japanese journalists, on a mission organized by the United Nations to get to know at first hand the Palestinian problem. This year, Radio Nacional de Espana represents Spain on this mission.

Yasir 'Arafat was really pessimistic about the immediate application of Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, which was to have begun on 13 April, and he insistently accused Israel of maneuvering in order not to begin this autonomy. This is Yasir 'Arafat:

[Begin 'Arafat recording, in English fading into Spanish translation] It is not the first maneuvering. If it is the first manoeuvring, OK, we can let it go. [end recording]

[Del Campo] 'Arafat said that this was not the first maneuvering by Israel, but if it was the first they could let it go. But 'Arafat, who, incidently, looked very tired—he had just returned from Cairo where the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are being held—stressed that Israel has suspended the negotiations in Cairo from Wednesday to Sunday under the formal pretext of the celebration of the day of the Jewish holocaust, but he emphasized that in contrast they have not suspended for the same reason the negotations being held in Paris with the Palestinians and Israelis on economic issues.

Thus, 'Arafat said, the date of 13 April, when, as I was saying, Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho was to begin, is not going to be met—in line, incidently, with the statements made by the Israeli foreign minister who gives as the probable date the end of the month.

'Arafat says that after 13 April he will convene the Palestinian leadership here in Tunisia to study what is to be done and in addition he called on the international community, the United States and Russia who are the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, and also the European Union and Japan, to help to resolve this impasse in the negotiations. That is all for now.

[Announcer] Those were the views expressed less than an hour ago by Yasir 'Arafat.

Interview With Japanese TV

OW0904143994 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1243 GMT 9 April 94

[Announcer-read report over video with Japanese subtitles on NHK "exclusive" interview with PLO Chairman

'Arafat by NHK correspondent Norikazu Hashimoto in Tunis on 8 April; from the "NHK News" program—'Arafat's remarks processed from English]

[Text] Negotiations on the establishment of Palestinian self-rule have been deadlocked over a month following the slaughter of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied Hebron in February. In connection with this, PLO Chairman 'Arafat strongly expressed dissatisfaction with the Israeli Government's attitude because it is most likely that the withdrawal of the Israeli forces will not meet the deadline of 13 April.

He made the following remarks in an exclusive interview with a NHK reporter accompanying the United Nations' news gathering team for Middle Eastern affairs in the evening of 8 April, which is the morning of 9 April in Japan.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] This means that he [not further identified] forgets everything concerning the 13th of April. For how long they will continue maneuvering? But I am sorry to say that they are continuing their maneuvering to prevent the implementation of what had been signed in the White House last September. This continuous delay from the Israeli side... [pauses] giving the chance for all the extremists from the two sides to damage the peace process. And because of this delay, our people have lost their candid... [corrects himself], have lost their confidence with this peace accord. [end recording]

Moreover, PLO Chairman 'Arafat disclosed that to provide a breakthrough in such a deadlocked situation, ha has asked for cooperation of the nations which are involved in the peace talks, including the United States and Russia.

[Begin Hashimoto recording] Chairman 'Arafat repeatedly used the phrase "the delay by Israeli maneuvering," thus strongly criticizing Israel. But it can be said that his remarks reflect the Palestinians' irritation and sense of crisis because progress—such as the withdrawal of the Israeli forces—in peace talks has not been clearly seen despite the agreement last September on launching negotiations on establishing Palestinian self-rule. Digesting schedules one by one toward establishing the self-rule government will not only lead to promoting mutual trust but also give impetus toward achieving peace. For that reason, PLO Chairman 'Arafat is increasingly irritated at the continuous delay. [end recording]

Cited on Tunisian Radio

LD1004092994 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has strongly criticized Israeli maneuvers in the peace talks and its disregard for the timetables which had been agreed in accordance with the declaration of principles signed between the two sides on 13 September last.

He warned of the dangerous results which could ensue from these maneuvers.

The Palestinian president expressed this stance when he received in Tunis the delegation of the enquiry commission representing journalists accredited to the United Nations from various countries, which is touring the Middle East.

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Message to UK, France

LD0804174294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] The brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received his excellency the British ambassador in Cairo yesterday evening. He gave him an important and urgent verbal message for the British Government related to the impasse reached by the negotiations with regard to implementing the agreement on the declaration of principles because of the obstacles placed by Israel in the way of implementing the agreement, which threatens the peace process.

The brother president also sent an important and urgent message to President Mitterrand and the French Government, related to the impasse reached by the negotiations with regard to the implementation of the agreement on the declaration of principles because of the obstacles placed by the Israeli Government in the way of implementing the agreement within the fixed deadlines.

Qaddumi Noncommittal on Chances for Talks' Success

JN0804122594 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, has said that he explored with top officials in Hanoi prospects for Vietnam helping in the effort to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy and infrastructure, which has been destroyed by the Israelis. Qaddumi was speaking at a news conference shortly before departing Ho Chi Minh City airport at the conclusion of a three-day visit yesterday. Qaddumi reached agreements with top Vietnamese officials about economic cooperation. Vietnam, he added, can help in the area of technical expertise and personnel training.

Asked to evaluate the chances of the ongoing talks between Palestinians and Israelis in Cairo, brother Qaddumi said he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic. Calling the talks tough, he said the Israelis are delaying [words indistinct] withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories.

PLO's 'Abbas Arrives 'To Add Impetus' to Talks

NC0904110694 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 9 April 94

[Text] Cairo, April 9 (AFP)—Senior PLO official Mahmud 'Abbas arrived Saturday in Cairo to add

impetus to the negotiations with Israel on the launch of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, was to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa as part of efforts to clear the obstacles. 'Abbas was a signatory to the September 13 PLO-Israeli autonomy accord.

The PLO executive committee member will stay on in the Egyptian capital for the negotiations due to resume here on Sunday.

He will work to keep an April 13 target for the Israeli army to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, to be replaced by a Palestinian police force.

The PLO accuses Israel of placing obstacles in the way of applying the autonomy accord, which originally was to have been launched on December 13.

'Abbas was also expected to meet delegates of an international observer force to be deployed in the mosque massacre town of Hebron, under a March 31 agreement with Israel, the sources added.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel last Wednesday adjourned negotiations to finalize a deal on an Israeli withdrawal.

The talks have snagged on a PLO demand that Israel set a date for the withdrawal before an advance party goes to the territories to prepare the ground for the Palestinian police.

Al-Surani: Talks Not To Lead to 'Honest' Implementation

JN1004111994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p 5

[Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has said the Palestinian-Israeli Cairo talks on implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement will not lead to an honest implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP].

Al-Surani regretted that the Palestinian negotiator did not ask what had become of the original Palestine that was divided by Resolution 181.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, he added that the Palestinian negotiator may get Gaza and the West Bank, a half or a quarter of it, and he may get nothing. This is because the United States and Israel have a special interpretation of Resolution 242. They consider that Jerusalem is not an occupied city, that the occupied territories are not Palestinian but disputed territories, and they view settlements as legitimate.

He added: What is going on is not negotiations or peace because the crux of the Palestine question, which is the problem of refugees was excluded from the Madrid conference.

On the Syrian criticism that the Palestinian leadership separated the Palestinian-Israeli track from other tracks, al-Surani said: Syria has the right to say this, but it has no right to separate itself from the Palestine question. When Syrian Foreign minister Faruq al-Shar' criticized the Palestinian leadership he did so out of pain and bitterness, and his objective is the restoration of coordination and not to say goodbye to the Palestinians.

Al-Surani said: Regrettably, the Palestinian leadership is committing the mistake of acting unilaterally, and it should reconsider this situation.

Paper Reports on 'Secret' Omani-Israeli Water Talks

JN1004080694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat]

[Text] AL-HAYAH has learned that water experts have held a meeting in Muscat. The meeting, which was kept secret by the Omani authorities, ended yesterday.

Diplomatic sources said that the participation of Israeli experts in an official meeting in an Arab country in the Gulf for the first time since the establishment of the Jewish state was behind the restricted reporting on the meeting.

The same sources added that experts from Oman, the United Kingdom, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Israel, and other countries attended the two-day meeting which was sponsored by the Omani Foreign Ministry.

The discussions dealt with the Omani experiment regarding the desalination of sea water and a study prepared by the Omanis to be presented to the meeting of the water committee affiliated with the Middle East peace conference which will be held in Muscat on 27 April.

The conferees reviewed the four five-year plans implemented in Oman in terms of building and developing water desalination stations, particularly the major water desalination plant in al- Ghabrah in the area of the capital, in which hundreds of millions of dollars are invested and which is the main source of drinking water for residents of the capital.

It appears that the need for further studies, researches, and working papers emerged during the meeting to crystallize Omani and Gulf concern for developing water desalination technology and reducing high economic costs.

Israeli Team Leaves for Oman

TA1004052094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] An Israeli preparatory team left last night for Oman in advance of the multilateral talks on water

resources. The four-man team is headed by an adviser to Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, Shlomo Gur. Beilin will lead the Israeli delegation to the talks themselves in the Gulf state scheduled for a week from today.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges U.S. To Increase Efforts for Self-Rule

NC1004171894 Paris AFP in English 1531 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, April 10 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat pressed the United States Sunday to step up efforts to ensure the successful launch of Palestinian self-rule as Israel and the PLO resumed talks in Cairo, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

'Arafat urged US Secretary of State Warren Christopher to make "the maximum effort" to ensure the success of the negotiations, during a telephone conversation.

The PLO leader stressed the importance of meeting the April 13 deadline set for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Under the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles signed in September Israel was due to complete its troop withdrawal by April 13, but implementation of the deal was delayed by disagreements over security arrangements and the February 25 Hebron massacre.

'Arafat said any Israeli failure to respect the timetable set out in the autonomy deal "will have negative repercussions on the whole peace process and threaten its credibility," WAFA reported.

The PLO leader also called for the rapid deployment of an international presence in the occupied territories, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 904 of March 18, which condemned the Hebron massacre and allowed for international protection for the Palestinians.

Israel and the PLO agreed last month that 160 lightly-armed observers from Norway, Denmark and Italy would be deployed in Hebron, where a Jewish settler shot dead 30 Arab worshipers in a mosque.

The two sides began a new round of talks in Cairo on Sunday in a bid to resolve remaining differences, including a timetable for Israeli withdrawal and the deployment of a Palestinian police force.

'Arafat and Christopher also discussed the escalating violence in the occupied territories, and the harm it could inflict on "the entire Middle East peace process and the (Israeli-PLO) negotiations," WAFA reported.

'Arafat discussed the same issues by telephone with US civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, currently visiting Israel, the agency said.

The PLO leader thanked Jackson for his "worthy efforts to support the just cause of the Palestinian people and the peace process."

Jackson, who arrived in Israel Thursday, has held talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem.

'Arafat Meets Palestinian Police Coordinator

LD0804182194 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received yesterday evening Mr. (Larsen), general coordinator of the Special Committee for Palestinian police who was accompanied by officials in charge of the international presence in Hebron from Norway, Denmark, and Italy.

The meetings was also attended by brothers Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and Hebron Mayor Mustafa al- Natshah and the members of its Municipal Council.

The practical steps and the mechanisms of the deployment of this international presence in Hebron, in implementation of UN Security Council's Resolution 904, were discussed during the meeting.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar stressed the importance of the international role in providing protection to our people and ending the siege and the curfew that has been imposed on the city by the Israeli Army for more than 40 days. He also emphasized the importance of the city's return to normal life.

The brother president expressed the PLO's eagerness to cooperate and coordinate with these forces, particularly as the brother mayor is the representative of brother President Abu-'Ammar to the joint committee in Hebron in charge of cooperation with the international presence.

'Arafat Cited on Economic Situation, Workers

NC1004124694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1203 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 10 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian information sources have stated that President Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the Palestinian leadership yesterday and the day before yesterday to discuss the deteriorating economic situation of the Palestinians due to the Israeli blockade that has been imposed on the occupied territories for 45 days. This blockade, the sources added, was causing poverty and hunger in the territories.

The sources said that 'Arafat briefed the participants on the reports that he had received from Palestinian officials in Gaza and Hebron. The reports indicated that poverty and hunger have spread due to the Israeli military blockade and the ban on 130,000 Palestinian workers from reporting to their work inside Israel.

According to the sources, 'Arafat had taken a number of urgent measures to avert further exacerbation of the crisis and to foil the Israeli attempt to import workers from abroad to replace the Palestinian workers, who are prevented from going to their work in Israel.

The sources said that, during his meeting with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent member states in Cairo last week, 'Arafat briefed them on the tragic condition of well over two million Palestinians. 'Arafat told the envoys that this condition has been caused by Israel's disregard of its international commitments and its evasion of implementing the articles of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. 'Arafat voiced his stern rejection of Israel's extortionist policy, according to the sources.

PLO's Sha'th on Cairo Talks, 'Afula, Ashdod

JN0804190094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1744 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation to the Cairo talks, by Faridah al-Shubashi on 8 April; place not given; from the weekly "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation in Cairo: What is your position, or specifically the PLO's position, on the 'Afula and Ashdod operations?

[Sha'th] We have a clear position, namely, that the peace process should end all acts of violence by both parties. All PLO factions have committed themselves to this issue. However, the problems, violence, and crimes committed by the Israeli settlers—and we have not forgotten the Hebron massacre and, afterward, the massacre committed by the Israeli Army itself in Gaza—all this creates an atmosphere that escalates violence on both sides. In the 'Afula operation, not only Israeli civilians were killed, but Palestinians on the same bus were also killed or wounded. Consequently, we announced our denunciation and severe regret at this operation. We, however, linked it to what happened in Hebron and Gaza, and we insist on the fact that the way out of this continued escalation is commitment to the dates, signing the peace agreement, and creation of a new situation that will prevent the settlers' violence and, consequently, ban the violence carried out by all parties.

[Al-Shubashi] But, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, it seems that the Tel Aviv leaders have realized the matter, or understood the message. What about the negotiations? In the negotiations with the Israelis, have you touched on the recent developments?

[Sha'th] No. The Israelis decided to leave the negotiations on Wednesday, based on a notification sent in advance to us. We, however, did our best to deter them from doing so. We told them: How can the agreement be ready for signature on 13 April, now that you are leaving the negotiations for three and one-half days out of the remaining five days? This makes it impossible to sign the agreement on 13 April. We can only view this as procrastination. The Israeli delegation insisted on leaving the negotiations. This decision was made prior to the 'Afula operation.

[Al-Shubashi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Can we avoid linking this recent Israeli behavior—namely, not to expedite the withdrawal or fulfilling the pledges stipulated by the Declaration of Principles—on the one hand and the state of despair prevailing among the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory on the other? Furthermore, wouldn't this situation create concern over attempts to curb the role of the PLO?

[Sha'th] In fact, the feeling of anger that prevails in the Palestinian arena is caused by Israeli practices carried out by settlers. It has become clear that the crimes and massacres by settlers have never been hidden from the Israeli Army. The inquiry has gradually revealed collusion and disregard in terms of controlling the settlers themselves.

We also found that the Israeli Army itself follows double standards. The violence practiced against the Palestinian people by the Israeli Army is not less than the crimes perpetrated by settlers. All this, in addition to the procrastination in reaching an agreement on the date set in the agreement we signed in Washington, create a state of anger and complaints in the ranks of our people.

Moving ahead toward assuming power, achieving Israeli withdrawal, the arrival of the Palestinian force and authority, and changing the situation on the ground will create a state of satisfaction among our Palestinian people. This was clear in Gaza. When Israeli withdrawal began and the groups of deportees returned there was a clear and remarkable change among the Palestinian masses in Gaza. This is natural. Without this, the anger, complaints, violence, and counter-violence will continue in our occupied territory.

[AL-Shubashi] Dr. Nabil, what is the way to get out of this vicious circle represented by Rabin's hesitation, the situation in the occupied territory, the frustration of the Palestinian people, and the eroding credibility of the PLO and the Palestinian leadership represented by President 'Arafat? How will the PLO overcome the situation so it will not reach an impasse?

[Sha'th] The peace, which we began in Madrid, and, then, the signing of the accord in Washington, must be implemented on the ground to gain support from the Palestinian and Israeli masses. We have been trying to end the talks at the set time. It is no secret to say that we have worked day and night over the past two weeks, particularly following the signing of the Hebron agreement, to accomplish the mission on the set date. We have prepared detailed plans for the entry of the Palestinian police and for Israeli withdrawal, and groups of deportees have returned home.

There is no doubt that we want the lists of deportees and prisoners to include all the sons of our people with all their factions. However, those who returned this time were not only from the historical political leaders, but also from the heroic leaders of the intifadah who have returned to lead the daily activities in the Palestinian street to receive the Palestinian police and authority and to change the situation on the ground.

Therefore, we tried to break this deadlock through intensive work on the level of the talks and on the level of the Palestinian police so that we enter on the fixed date. I do not see any other way to break the deadlock except this one. We need Arab and international support to achieve this. In other words, the solution lies in accomplishing the preparatory steps and entering the homeland as soon as possible.

[Al-Shubashi] What is your assessment of Peres' saying that Israeli withdrawal would be accomplished at the end of April?

[Sha'th] The problem is that we can longer see any respect for any set date. If the matter is clear and the agreement this time is firm we will have another opinion. We have enough flexibility to accept dates that are very close to 13 [April] if such dates are decided for purely practical reasons. However, we no longer trust these dates. We want these dates to be respected in order to accept any new steps for the future. The coming date now is 13 April, so we, as well as Minister Peres, should support any necessary effort to reach this date. During the telephone call which Minister Peres held with [Egyptian] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, I spoke personally with him at his request and at the request of brother Minister 'Amr Musa. Peres tried to respond to our call for intensifying the talks and agreed on sending the Israeli delegation today, Friday, [8 April], for at least one day so as not to waste time. The delegation will come again on Sunday. A few hours after this agreement, the office of Prime Minister Rabin denied this matter and claimed that he knows nothing about it and that the Israeli delegation cannot go to Egypt on Friday.

I believe that many things should be accomplished before restoring the credibility of Israeli dates on which they agreed with us.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you, Dr. Nabil Sha'th.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

'Arafat Adviser on 'Afula, Denouncing 'Terrorist Acts'

TA0904092994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's special adviser, by 'Adi Talmor in the studio on 9 April; from the "In the Current Situation" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] Mr. al-Tibi, you spoke with Yasir 'Arafat last night, and you have also met him in Cairo over the last few days. Is he still silent on the issue of terrorism? Has he explained to you why is he refraining from publicly denouncing these terrorist acts?

[Al-Tibi] Look, I was with the chairman in Cairo before we received the news about the murder in 'Afula. At the time 'Arafat held a meeting with the Spanish foreign minister; there were a lot of Spanish, Egyptian, and other foreign journalists who wanted to speak to him about other issues, but he left the place. He did not want to speak to them. Later he refused to meet other journalists, some of them Israelis....

[Talmor, interrupting] Washington, however, is exerting great pressure on him.

[Al-Tibi continues] After we received the report about the murderous attack on innocent civilians in 'Afula we held a closed meeting in which we formulated an unequivocal statement....

[Talmor, interrupting] Why has 'Arafat himself not denounced this attack, as Rabin publicly and firmly did after the Hebron massacre.

[Al-Tibi] The chairman participated with us in formulating a statement, in which we expressed regret....

[Talmor, interrupting] I want to ask again, why is 'Arafat afraid to publicly denounce these terrorist acts?

[Al-Tibi continues] ...and condolences for the bereaved families. This was done on behalf of the chairman, who said in the past that innocent people must not be harmed. This statement would not have been accepted without the chairman's involvement and approval. His position regarding such violence and terrorism is known; only a month ago he sharply denounced the murder of Mrs. Shoshan. I believe that the PLO statement was unequivocal. What the chairman told us on this issue is extremely clear and firm.

[Talmor] Why, then, does Washington still insist that 'Arafat publicly denounce these acts?

[Al-Tibi] The 'Afula attack is doubtlessly a most terrible murder of innocent people. A murder is a murder is a murder. I believe this attack must be denounced.

[Talmor] I, however, still insist 'Arafat should publicly denounce the attack. Some people claim, for example, that he is afraid to publicly denounce the attack because of PLO rapprochement efforts with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Some people even claim the PLO is coordinating with Hamas, and a public denunciation of Hamas terror acts could harm these efforts.

[Al-Tibi] These claims are utter nonsense. The PLO's and 'Arafat's stand on violence and terrorism is known and is expressed whenever there are such grave incidents. This position was also expressed after the murder

of Mrs. Shoshan. There is absolutely no coordination between the PLO and Hamas in this area, and whoever says so does not know what he is talking about. This issue does not deserve any further comment.

[Talmor] Despite the recent acts of terrorism and the fact that it was the PLO that halted the negotiations following the Hebron massacre, the Israeli Government yesterday said it wants to facilitate the negotiations, while accusing you of delaying the talks. What is your reaction to this?

[Al-Tibi] It was the Israeli side that suspended the talks several days ago, not the Palestinians. They did this due to Holocaust Memorial Day. But instead of halting the talks for one day only they did it for three days. The claim that the Palestinians halted the talks is baseless. It is in our interest to end the talks as soon as possible in order to immediately receive the authority and power in Gaza and Jericho. At this point there are still controversial issues, due to obstacles placed by the Israeli delegation on the way to achieving an agreement between the two sides—mainly in relation to the deployment of the Palestinian police force; the timetable for such a deployment; legal responsibility, and other issues I do not want to broach.

[Talmor] Do you believe you will be able to control the area when you receive the authority?

[Al-Tibi] At this point the PLO is still not in control of the occupied territories. It is far away from them. The IDF is in charge there at the present time. I believe that in future the Palestinians will maintain full control of all areas under their authority.

'Arafat Adviser Reponds to Peres' Afula Remarks

LD1004080194 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Marwan Kanafani, adviser to brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, made the following statement:

It is very strange to hear this kind of logic from Shimon Peres, Israeli foreign affairs minister, especially because neither he nor Prime Minister Rabin have expressed any kind of regret and condemnation when the Israeli army and intelligence deliberately assassinated six young leaders from the Fatah Movement in Gaza recently. On the contrary, the Israeli housing minister expressed his appreciation and that of the government and the Israeli army for this kind of terrorist act immediately after the weekly meeting of the Israeli cabinet.

DFLP, PFLP Leadership Demands 'Arafat Resignation

JN0904124894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said that the growing popular Palestinian resistance will wreck the Oslo and Cairo agreements. He stressed that it is impossible to coexist with the settlements and that there is no alternative to the removal of the occupation. Nayif Hawatimah renewed his criticism of the Palestinian leadership, which, he said, has ceded all the Palestinian people's demands after the Hebron massacre.

Meanwhile, the unified central leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the DFLP demanded PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his team resign. It condemned the occupation authorities' decision to close the occupied Palestinian territories, deeming it a collective detention of the Palestinian people.

PLO's al-Najjab on 'Afula, Israeli 'Redeployment'

JN1104101994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Apr 94 p 29

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has said that he supports political settlement, without one- upmanship, despite his reservations about the Oslo accord. He added that Israel is to blame for the impasse in the Cairo talks, adding that he is against all solutions that confiscate the rights of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

In a meeting with local journalists on 9 April, al-Najjab said the Rabin government wants Palestinian recognition of the status quo and agreement on arrangements that lead to some sort of civilian administration linked to a military governor, and not a self-rule or Palestinian authority that assumes the powers of the Israeli military authority.

Al-Najjab added: What is happening now in Gaza and Jericho is not an Israeli withdrawal, as some people like to call it. It is, in reality, a redeployment of Israeli troops by keeping a distance from populated areas while maintaining control over the land.

He added: We see trucks carrying office equipment and cabinets leaving this center or that in Gaza to Qatif settlement and in Jericho to 'Aqabat Jabr. "Is the Israeli occupation an administrative one?"

He pointed out that besieging the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including 2 million Palestinians, is meant to further isolate Jerusalem, cause real starvation for the entire population, bring them to their knees, and break their resistance. Afterward, the Israelis will ask for a political price for a partial lifting of the siege. [passage omitted]

Assessing the 'Afula operation, al-Najjab said: Striking at civilians does not serve the Palestinian cause. The operation has given the Zionists a chance to say that the conflict is a racist one and not against the occupation of our land and holy places.

He said the U.S.-Israeli demand that President 'Arafat condemn the operation is simply "hypocrisy." The political wisdom of President 'Arafat should have told him to be the first to condemn the operation so that they will not use the operation to tighten starvation and escalate killing of the Palestinian people.

Answering a question, al-Najjab said: The relationship between the PLO and the United States is characterized by "warnings". Whenever there is an impasse in the negotiations with the Israelis, 'Arafat receives another U.S. warning. Al-Najjab said he had attended several meetings between President 'Arafat and the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, which were meant only to deliver a warning from the U.S. Administration to the Palestinian leadership. [passage omitted]

Commentary: Israel Responsible for 'Afula Bombing

JN0804112394 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, our great and militant Palestinian people, our glorious Arab nation: Serious questions, usually dodged by Israeli leaders, resurfaced following the heroic 'Afula operation, effected by heroes of the Palestinian revolution, which left a heroic martyr bomber dead and close to 50 Israelis dead or wounded.

The first question is: Why all the foot dragging and compromising in putting into practice PLO-Israel agreements calling for an Israeli withdrawal, deployment of Palestinian police, and the transfer of power to Palestinian authorities?

The general consensus is that the responsibility [for the 'Afula operation] must be borne by the Israeli Government because it is letting itself be swayed by extremists, settlers, and army generals who thrive on war and bloodshed. The result has been massacres perpetrated against the Palestinian people at the Ibrahimi Mosque, in Hebron itself, in the Jabalyah camp in Gaza, and throughout the Palestinian territory where the Palestinians are being killed at random.

We have been telling the Israelis that violence breeds violence and that blood [words indistinct] and that they should honor agreements to which they put their signatures and observe agreed upon dates. If the Israeli Government had met the 13 December date for implementation of the accord, much of the chaste blood spilled in Hebron, Gaza, Khan Yunus, Janin, Tulkarm, and Ramallah would have been spared. However, in appeasing terror and terrorists in the settler and military communities, the Israeli Government is turning a deaf ear to the voice of truth, and the result is a vicious cycle of violence, suffering, and blood.

Will the 'Afula operation bring the Israeli leadership to its senses? Will the Israeli leaders understand that killing Palestinians cannot but have a price? Will they learn the lesson that the protection of human life depends on the establishment of peace rather than [words indistinct] and procrastination.

It is hoped that acts of violence will give pause to all the parties and prompt increased determination to reach the kind of peace that obtains security for all concerned, saves lives on all sides, and assures Palestinian rights, without which peace will remain elusive.

Paper Defends PLO Reluctance To Condemn 'Afula Killings

PM0804153694 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8 Apr 94 p11

[Editorial: "The Intifadah Enters the Arms Phase"]

[Text] Tension has been mounting in the occupied Arab territories since the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron. After the suicide operation carried out by one of the fedayeen of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in 'Afula, in which eight Israelis were killed and at least 50 wounded, there have been other operations in the cities of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip throughout the past two days, especially the operation carried out in Ashdod by an Islamic Jihad Movement fighter in which one Israeli was killed and four others were wounded.

This escalation occurs as the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of the Oslo agreement stumble because of Israel's refusal to set a date for the start of the withdrawal of its forces from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, and Israel's timewasting in discussion of minor details. Just as the Hebron massacre underlined the importance of Palestinian security and the difficulty of coexistence between the Palestinians and the armed settlers, the latest fedayeen operations against Israelis inside the so-called green line and in the Gaza Strip confirm that the Hebrew state will never have security and stability so long as it maintains its current policy of humiliating the Arab negotiators and trying to blackmail them and to have both peace and land.

The United States and its current administration is responsible for the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories because it has, for the past seven months, ignored the PLO's appeals for intervention to break the negotiation deadlock.

President Clinton's administration has allowed Israel to persist in its conceit and arrogance in dealing with the Palestinians. When the Hebron massacre occurred, it was reluctant to condemn Israel and refused to vote in favor of the draft resolution calling for the disarmament

of the settlers and the provision of international protection for the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is regrettable that the U.S. Administration has been putting intense pressure on the PLO over the past two days to make it condemn the 'Afula suicide operation. It did not exert the same pressure on Israel after the Jabalya massacre in which eight people were unjustifiably killed by Israeli special units. American officials, in making such demands—which to them are ordinary demands—on the PLO, fail to understand their dangers and their negative, perhaps even catastrophic, effects, and that is because they do not understand the Arab and, particularly, the Palestinian mentality. Any fedayeen operation against Israelis is received with applause and satisfaction in the occupied territories, and anyone who carries it out is a hero and a martyr who is buried in the graveyard of the martyrs and the immortals.

Nobody can blame them for that conviction, for they have suffered the fire of daily Israeli repression and they face Israeli bullets with their chests. Any condemnation of the fedayeen operations is seen as a perpetuation of the occupation and as a blessing on its settlements and aggressive policies. That is why the PLO is very reluctant to give in to U.S. demands in this connection.

The officials responsible for U.S. policy in the Arab region—and some of them are Jews—aim to isolate the PLO from its people and they aim to foment internal sedition in the occupied territories by calling on the PLO to condemn a legitimate act such as is carried out by all peoples of the world in the march toward independence and liberation. Resistance remains a legitimate and necessary element so long as there is occupation, and even more so when it is a repressive, colonialist, expansionist occupation like the current Israeli occupation of Palestinian.

What is happening in the occupied territory is a renewal of the intifadah and a shift from the war of knives to the war of arms and explosives, which is, without doubt, the bloodiest and most dangerous war. Israel and the United States are to blame for this shift and its consequences because they aborted the peace process in the first real test on 13 December when Israel was supposed to begin withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, and in doing so they gave extremism a golden opportunity to overtake moderation and to increase its popular following in the occupied territories. That is what Israel wanted and what it had planned and continues to plan for because it does not want to give up the territory nor to commit itself to any peaceful settlement.

PFLP Reacts to Alleged Gun-Smuggling Incident

JN0604154594 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p 7

[Text] We have received the following letter from 'Abd-al- Rahim Malluh, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], reacting to a news report published under the headline "Weapons Seized in Habash's Car." The text of the letter follows:

Mr. Ra'id Salihah, Editor of AL-BILAD newspaper,

Greetings:

Issue Number 61, dated 9 March, 1994, of AL-BILAD published the following in the center of the front page, under the headline "Weapons Seized in Habash's Car:"

"The Jordanian version says that during Habash's recent visit to Jordan, his car was searched and found to contain miscellaneous weapons and silencers. Meanwhile, security agencies have begun stepping up surveillance at Jordan's border points to thwart any gun-smuggling attempts, especially after the two movie theater bombings."

This report carried by your newspaper is baseless and only seeks to discredit comrade Secretary General George Habash.

Such rumors are calculated to harm Palestinian-Jordanian relations and to resurrect the events of the past [the September, 1970 clashes that pitted Palestinian guerrillas against the Jordanian military] that sincere attempts have been made on all sides to relegate into oblivion. It is fair to say that political developments since have helped us all to overcome the legacies of the past and have opened the doors wide for building Palestinian- Jordanian relations on solid foundations inspired by distinguished relations between the two brother peoples and their joint confrontation of the Zionist enemy.

The charge that George Habash sought to smuggle weapons is absolutely baseless, and state agencies in Jordan can confirm this.

Dr. Habash is a sufficiently credible and self-respecting person not to abuse the special privileges offered him by the state authorities during his visits to compromise the country's security and stability.

We cannot make sense out of the connection you made between the fabricated report and the movie theater bombings and the subsequent measures taken by the Jordanian authorities unless the aim is to discredit the PFLP, and George Habash in particular, and the factions of the Palestinian revolution in general.

We have consistently come out against any actions designed to undermine Jordan's security, including the barbaric bombings of the movie houses.

For the record, on his last visit here on 23 February, 1994, Dr. Habash was not subjected to any searches at the border, and was treated with all the respect due a national patriot.

[Signed] 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, PFLP Political Bureau member

Islamic Jihad Leader Rules Out Palestinian In-Fighting

JN0804191394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1739 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Organization, by Sana' al-Imam in Damascus; date not given; from the weekly "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shaqaqi] First, this military act [the 7 April Ashdod attack] falls in the context of our continuous jihad and struggle against the Zionist occupation. It also falls in the context of our response to the massacres of our Palestinian people, especially the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. It is unreasonable for us to see our people being slaughtered in front of our very eyes and to remain idle. This act of jihad by us also falls in the context of responding to the Oslo agreement. We do not agree that it is a plot to liquidate the Palestine question. We do not hide our objection to this agreement. We do not conceal that we are doing our best to thwart this agreement.

[Al-Imam] Mr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, Israel may withdraw from Gaza and Jericho and hand the authority there to the Palestinians or the PLO. In case of your continued resistance and military operations, do you not fear that inter-Palestinian confrontations may take place?

[Al-Shaqaqi] First, if it [Israel] really wants to withdraw from Gaza, as you are saying, then there will be no need for confrontations in the Gaza Strip. This is because there will be no Israelis. But if Israelis remain there—army and settlements—this means they will not withdraw. Actually, the Israelis are redeploying their troops in the Gaza Strip. In fact, the future in the Gaza Strip is vague. Nobody, neither Rabin nor 'Arafat, can define the picture in Gaza after one or two months. However, in any case, the Gaza Strip and Jericho do not constitute more than 2 percent of the size of Palestine. This leaves 98 percent of Palestine. We will have the right to confront the occupation anywhere there. Our jihad and struggle will continue in the land occupied in 1948, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. We will do our best to escalate this jihad and struggle. As for the Gaza Strip, as I said, the situation is vague. If there is a real withdrawal, there will be no need for our continued fighting. But if there is no real withdrawal, then it will be our right to chase the remaining occupation—troops and settlers alike. However, I would like to emphasize that our struggle and jihad against the Zionist occupation does not in any way mean that it will collide with any segment of our people. We will not collide with any other Palestinian force. We will do our best to avoid being driven to such a point. I believe that many options are available to us. Such options can spare us such a collision.

Hamas Official: Rocket Threats Not 'Cheap Propaganda'

JN0804185294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Interview with Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, Hamas representative in Syria, by Sana' al-Imam, in Damascus; date not given; from the weekly "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mustafa] The purpose of the 'Afula operation was to avenge the martyrs of the bloody Ramadan dawn in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Revenge was inevitable. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is confident that 'Arafat will not go back on the negotiations. He has burned all his bridges. He will not return to the trench of the people, the intifadah, and the resistance. The only thing he has left is to pursue the conspiracy to the end. It is like a person who falls in deep mud; whenever he tries to come out of the mud, he sinks deeper. We are really astonished at the U.S. position and that of the Security Council and some nations that condemned this great operation of martyrdom, carried out for revenge and to deter the Zionist usurpers from committing more operations. It took the Security Council three weeks to issue a resolution condemning the crime of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. On the other hand, it was only a matter of hours before it condemned this revenge operation, which is part of the resistance against occupation and usurpation. Does the Security Council act upon U.S-Zionist orders? Is it no longer a council for world peace and world peoples?

[Al-Imam] Hamas is not satisfied with this operation. It has threatened to fire rockets at the homes of settlers in the occupied territories. On what basis did Hamas launch these threats? Will these threats be carried out? I wonder if Hamas really has the weapons required to carry out such threats?

[Mustafa] First of all, the Palestinian people, Hamas, and all free men, are demanding that the usurper occupiers leave our land and go to their original home. They will live in peace after the return of four million Palestinians who were made homeless by Zionist usurpation. Those Zionist settlers and soldiers are practicing killing, terrorism, and deportation. They are practicing rape and violating sanctities. This is the demand Hamas has made to those settlers. Otherwise, it has threatened them with rockets, just like the Zionists launched rockets against our people and villages and safe and defenseless homes before and during the intifadah. When Hamas declares this, it is aware that the Palestinian people know Hamas keeps its promises. It has earned its credibility through its successive statements and positions. This is not credibility won by propaganda and fame. It is true credibility won on the battlefield. Therefore, the threats Hamas has launched to fire the rocket shells, which God has given it recently, as stated in the recent military communique, represent a true announcement. This is not cheap propaganda. It is not to win fame. Hamas and the al-Qassam Battalions have proven this during the intifadah.

Algeria

President Accepts Resignation of Malek's Government

NC1104102994 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Algiers, April 11 (AFP)—The government of Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek resigned Monday, officials announced.

Malek who took over the premiership on September 4 handed in his resignation to President Liamine Zeroual who accepted it.

Government Devalues Dinar by 40.17 Percent

LD1004090194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Pending the signing of the one-year stand-by agreement with the IMF, the financial and monetary authorities have announced that the value of the national currency, the dinar, will be devalued as from today by 40.17 percent. Accordingly, $1 will be equivalent to 36 dinars, compared to 25 dinars in the past.

The loan and monetary council has also announced a tangible increase in interests on loans. These corrective measures come to confront the current economic stagnation and to ensure boosting the economic mechanism in the future. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister on Devaluation

LD1004183994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Interview with Economy Minister Mourad Benachnou by unidentified correspondent; place not given—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] As I had announced earlier, our guest tonight is Economy Minister Mourad Benachnou. Welcome minister. The first question I will put to you is the following: today the Bank of Algeria announced a 40.17 percent devaluation of the dinar as from 10 April. First, what will be the economic impact of this devaluation? Second, will this devaluation take place in one go or will it be introduced gradually?

[Benachnou] First, in the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate; as you know, the value of a currency depends on the law of supply and demand. What is happening in Algeria is that revenues in hard currency dropped for several reasons, the first one being a decline in oil prices. This required an adjustment in the value of the dinar in relation to the hard currencies, which are in huge demand but are not in sufficient supply.

As for the repercussions of the devaluation of the dinar, I will say that these will be both positive and negative. First, the positive repercussions will include an increase in tax revenues for the state as a result of higher oil revenues when the latter are converted into dinars. Second, this will enable us to give a greater freedom to imports. Third, this devaluation will in the near future, God willing, encourage exports other than oil.

As regards the negative repercussions, the first one will be on prices. However, I must point out that the parallel market [black market] was ahead of the state as far as the exchange rate of the dinar is concerned. You know that in the parallel market the dinar is lower than the official rate.

[Correspondent] As we have just heard, the International Monetary Fund has expressed its full satisfaction. Does this mean that the agreement with the IMF has been signed, and if it the case, what are the contents of that agreement?

[Benachnou] We signed a letter of intent this evening after the government discussed and approved the contents of the letter. On the whole, the letter of intent sets out the economic, financial, and monetary policy the Algerian Government intends to follow until the country returns to the path of development and to a stability in prices and until it checks inflation and boosts investments again so that enough new jobs can be created to keep up with the number of youths entering the job market every year.

The contents of this letter are all built around these objectives. By way of illustration, I will now give some of the points this letter addresses. The first point is the rate of the dinar. We have already talked about this. The second point is linked to the lifting of all restrictions on imports to allow our economy to be financed effectively and in a way that reflects the real requirements of the economy and not decisions taken by civil servants sitting in their offices who do not know how the economy or companies are run by operators who are directly responsible for production.

There is also a measure concerning the budget because several deficiencies we notice in our economy are the result of a lack of restraint on the part of the state in terms of expenditure. At times this expenditure exceeded the revenues, and consequently the state had to borrow money from the Central Bank. This in turn led to the inflation Algeria is now experiencing.

As regards the policy of managing public funds, I can say that we will achieve a greater restraint and that this restraint will enable us to curb the price rises we are currently facing.

This letter addressed another problem, namely the restructuring of state-owned companies. We are aware of the huge delay in tackling this problem. In any case, the state-owned companies contribute to the national income with 60 percent, but this contribution is well below their capacity. These companies have a higher capacity of production, and we must give them the means to maximize it in the best way possible and with the necessary standard.

There are other measures that are purely technical, and this may not be the best place to talk about them. However, I must stress that this letter will enable us to receive first of all $1 billion from the IMF, as its director general announced. We will also receive some loans that had been suspended and that had been linked to this letter. These loans are coming to us from the World Bank, $175 million; Japan, $150 million; the European Union, $180 million; and finally the Arab Monetary Fund, $100 million.

This will be the first tranche. For the second tranche, we have started talks with a number of states such as France, Spain, Italy, and Belgium and with other institutions to enable us to finance our balance of payments to meet the imports requirements and the requirements linked to the servicing of our foreign debt.

As regards the foreign debt, its problem is also linked to the signing of this letter of intent. As the IMF director general said, and I can only repeat what he said, we will be able to enter talks with our creditors when we achieve a significant reduction in the servicing of our foreign debt, and I mean a very big reduction.

[Correspondent] Thank you minister. I hope we will meet again for more information on other economic matters. Thank you again.

Spokesman Explains Government Meeting

LD0904212894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Excerpts] A ministerial council was held this morning at the Presidency and was chaired by Liamine Zeroual, head of state. The meeting was attended by a number of ministers.

Following the meeting, the government's official spokesman held a news conference in which he explained the issues on the agenda of today's meeting. Here now follows the details of this news conference:

[Begin unidentified official spokesman recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, and the merciful. The Council of Ministers held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Mr. Liamine Zeroual, head of state. [passage omitted]

On the national economy level, the head of state submitted a report on the content of the letter of intent to the IMF that the council adopted. It will be sent to the IMF director general today. To this effect, the national economy minister submitted a report on the situation of the national economy, especially the issue of the management of foreign debts. Following this report, it became clear that the method that has been adopted to manage the foreign debt up until now was not suitable, because it did not help the country break the vicious circle that our national development was suffering from despite all the debt repayments operations undertaken by us in an organized way.

In addition to this, the current reduction of oil prices and the international oil markets situation forced us into a situation that gave the impression that we did not repay our debts; this is because the income from our exports during the year 1994 will not exceed more than $8 billion, whereas the debt repayments will reach $9.3 billion.

In conclusion, the possibility of our country securing new loans from the international market has become difficult because our traditional creditors insist on linking link their financial cooperation with us with the conclusion of an agreement between our country and the IMF. We have been working for the preparation of such an agreement with the IMF. Additionally, we have begun preparing for negotiations that we will have with Paris Club. In these negotiations we have adopted two fundamental principles: To protect, as far as possible, the scope of movement regarding the economic policy of our country; to work, in particular, toward the preservation of the maximum abilities to manage the social repercussions caused by the reforms of the structural program, and make it acceptable to our workers. To this end, the Council of Ministers adopted a number of projects during today's meeting.

During his interventions at the council's meeting, the head of state stressed the following directives:

To work toward the consolidation of the Maghreban march, which for Algeria represents a strategic choice. To implement the resolutions of the Algerian-Tunisian summit and to promote and bolster relations between the two countries. At the economic level, he stressed the need to use seriousness and determination to manage and implement the program of restructuring and bolstering the national economy.

To work for a fair distribution of the burden caused by the economic restructuring operation among all social strata. The head of state also underlined the priority enjoyed by the following sectors: The hydrocarbons sector which should not suffer from any delay regarding investment and prospecting operations; the housing sector that represents a pressing social priority and warrants fundamental reforms and great attention. The farming sector: To better use fertile land, and to embark on reforming new land. The sector of small and medium enterprises: As it represent the main source for investments and the creation of new jobs opportunities.

In the field of external trade and distribution, the head of state stressed the need to cleanse this sector and to find an immediate solution to the phenomenon of the shortage of basic commodities in the markets, and to put a decisive end to the smuggling operations via our borders that harm the resources of the national economy.

In parallel with this program, and in order to achieve its results, the head of state stressed the need to continue and boost the structural reforms of the national economy and to work for the liberation of all national initiatives. I thank you. [end recording]

Reportage on Violence, Security Activities

UGTA Official Assassinated

LD0804123594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Security services reported that Belaid Meziane, Algerian General Workers Union [UGTA] national secretary in charge of social affairs, was assassinated yesterday near El Harrach by an armed group.

The statement of the security services pointed out that the victim died at Belfort Hospital in El Harrach. [passage omitted]

HAMAS Activist Assassinated

LD0904163094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] The security services have announced that Omar Khennouche, 43, a party activist in the HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] movement and a member of the Reform and Guidance Association, was assassinated on 7 April in Khemis El Khechna in Boumerdes Province.

Omar Khennouche is the second figure affiliated to Hamas and the Reform and Guidance Association to be assassinated after Mohamed Bouslimani two months ago.

'Terrorists' Eliminated, 40 Arrested

LD0904201394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] The security services have announced that its forces have eliminated some 16 terrorists and arrested 40 others between Tuesday and Friday [6 and 9 April] in the provinces of Boumerdes, Algiers, Bouira, Setif, Batna, Tizi Ouzou, and Annaba.

Security Kills 4, Arrests 4

LD1004200094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Security services said today that it had managed to kill four armed groups' members and arrested four others in the capital, Boumerdes, Saida, between Friday and Sunday [8 and 10 April].

Egypt

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasanov Visits

Meets With Mubarak

NC0804191394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov, who is on an official visit to Egypt, was received yesterday by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The minister presented the Azerbaijani president's letter to Husni Mubarak. The question of expanding bilateral ties were discussed at the meeting. Gasan Gasanov briefed Husni Mubarak in detail on the Armenian aggression. Husni Mubarak stated that Egypt resolutely condemns this aggression and wants the ouster of the occupationist forces from the Azerbaijani lands as soon as possible and the peaceful settlement of the conflict. He noted that Egypt, and he personally, opposes the forcible change of borders. President Husni Mubarak said that the Egyptian people regard the Azerbaijani people as friendly and fraternal. He hoped that Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev's official visit to Egypt will help further improve relations between our countries.

Gasan Gasanov also visited the Arab League, met Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and provided detailed information to him on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and gave him an information package to be sent to the members of the Arab League. Gasan Gasanov addressed the Arab League's extraordinary session on 7 April.

Meets With Musa, Departs

NC0904170794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov left Cairo this afternoon ending a five-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

During the visit, Gasanov held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on promoting bilateral relations in all fields.

PLO's 'Arafat Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0804134294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this afternoon following a three-day visit during which he met President Husni Mubarak and discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and consulted on the situation before the handover of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

'Arafat also met Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid and reviewed with him the latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

The Palestinian president also held a series of meetings with members of the Palestinian delegation, Palestinian military commanders, and delegations from Hebron and Gaza.

Foreign Minister Confers With PLO Officials

NC0904203694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa tonight met Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO

Executive Committee; Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo.

During the meeting, Minister Musa and the Palestinian officials reviewed current developments related to the Palestinian issue and the tension in the occupied territories. Matters concerning the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo tomorrow, Sunday, and the obstacles facing the formulation of a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho were also discussed.

Musa Phones OAU Official on Rwanda, Comments on Yemen

NC0904160994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that he had telephoned OAU Secretary General Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim. Musa added that he had informed the OAU secretary general of the views of President Husni Mubarak, the OAU chairman, on the current tragedy in Rwanda and what the OAU ought to do to contain this tragedy.

The foreign minister said agreement was reached with the OAU secretary general to stay in touch while following the developments in Rwanda in order to put an end to the conflict.

He added that Salim Ahmed Salim told him that immediately after he returns from Tanzania the [OAU] body in charge of resolving African disputes will hold an urgent meeting at the ambassadorial level at OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa to follow up the situation in Rwanda.

On the situation in Yemen, Musa said that Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif left for Yemen today as the envoy of President Husni Mubarak, along with Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, the United Arab Emirates foreign minister, as envoy of UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, on a mission to follow up on the situation there and meet President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and other leaders in an effort to take the necessary measures to preserve Yemeni stability and unity.

Musa added that he had held talks with the UAE foreign minister yesterday evening, that President Mubarak received the UAE minister today, and that all aspects of the issue and possible measures were discussed.

On his meeting today with the British Ambassador in Cairo, Christopher Long, Musa said several issues were discussed. He added that the ambassador conveyed a message from British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and an official invitation for him to visit Britain. The foreign minister said they also discussed the Middle East peace process and developments in the Libyan-Western crisis.

Information Minister, UAE Minister Leave for Sanaa

NC0904121294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, United Arab Emirates [UAE] foreign minister, left Cairo for Sanaa today as envoys of President Husni Mubarak and UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. They are scheduled to meet with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this evening and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid tomorrow morning.

The visit is part of the efforts made by President Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid to contain the Yemeni crisis. Assistant Foreign Minister Badr Hammam is accompanying al-Sharif and al-Na'imi on their visit.

Earlier today, President Mubarak received a message from Shaykh Zayid during his meeting with UAE Foreign Minister al-Na'imi.

Al-Sharif stated that the message deals with the joint efforts by President Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid to find a solution for the Yemeni crisis by bringing the views of the Yemeni political leaders closer together.

Ministers Return From Trip

NC1004184894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah al-Na'imi returned to Cairo this evening after conveying messages from President Husni Mubarak and UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Al-Sharif said on his arrival that he will brief President Mubarak on the results of the visit.

Senior Security Official Killed in al-Jizah

NC1004053194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Major General Ra'uf Khayrat, of the State Security Intelligence Service, his driver, and his bodyguard were killed tonight when unknown assailants threw a bomb at his car as it passed in front of the Radubis movie theater on al-Haram Street in al-Jizah, according to preliminary reports. Police and Interior Ministry officials arrived at the scene to investigate.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2230 GMT on 9 April adds: "According to eyewitness reports, two or three men carried out the attack. They threw a bomb at the major general's car and escaped, firing wildly to cover their escape. The car was completely burned and the charred

bodies of the victims were found inside. Police surrounded the area, closed access to the entire neighborhood, and began looking for the attackers. Forensic experts are examining evidence at the site of the bombing."]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2325 GMT on 9 April says: "A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said that at 2150 today, Maj. Gen. Ra'uf Khayrat was driving his car near the intersection of Mahran and Lutfi al-Sayyid Streets in al-Haram when unidentified attackers fired shots at him and then threw an explosive charge inside his car, killing him and burning his vehicle. Interior Ministry officials and forensic experts went to the scene of the crime and police began to search for the attackers."]

Islamic Group Claims Killing

NC1004182294 Paris AFP in English 1755 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, April 10 (AFP)—An outlawed fundamentalist group said Sunday it had killed a police general, who had been at the forefront of the battle against Islamic militants, in revenge for human rights abuses in Egyptian prisons.

Security forces launched a manhunt on Sunday after General Ra'uf Khayrat was killed by assailants who hurled a bomb at his car in the Egyptian capital.

Three people in a car and two on a motorbike raked General Khayrat's car with automatic gunfire late Saturday and then lobbed the bomb before escaping, witnesses said.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] said in a statement to AFP it had carried out the attack "to avenge the most atrocious violations of human rights which Islamic prisoners are subjected to in Egyptian prisons."

Khayrat was the number two in the state security services, which have been accused by human rights groups of torturing suspected militants.

His charred body was found in the burnt-out car after the attack in the suburb of al-Jizah on Pyramids Avenue; which happened as the general was leaving home at the wheel of his car, the witnesses said.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah warned on March 27 that it would avenge what it called the "serious violations of human rights in Egyptian prisons," where the state security services interrogate thousands of suspects.

It said it had tracked the general down even though he had changed address several times, and used three different cars in a bid to outwit possible assailants. [passage omitted]

Khayrat was one of the leading officials in charge of the fight against militants who launched a terror campaign against the government in the spring of 1992.

It was the first killing of a police general in Cairo, though four other police generals have been killed in southern Egypt, a hotbed of Muslim fundamentalism.

Police launched a massive manhunt in al-Jizah, with officers out on patrol and soldiers armed with automatic weapons posted on all the main roads and bridges of the capital.

The motorbike and car used in the attack were found near the general's home.

It was the worst attack in Cairo since a failed November 25 assassination bid against Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi. The authorities had since kept Islamic violence mostly confined to the south of the country.

The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation has accused Khayrat's services of systematically torturing suspects in Islamic militant attacks.

More than 360 people have been killed, including 132 policemen, since the militants declared war on the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in March 1992.

Noncommissioned Police Officer Killed in Asyut

NC1004110494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Noncommissioned police officer 'Ali Thabit 'Ali Muhammad al-Ma'adi, from the Dayrut Police Force of Asyut, was shot dead by unidentified persons this morning, a responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has reported.

The source added that at approximately 0830 this morning, while the noncommissioned officer was leaving his home in Bandar al-Qusiyah town for his work at Dayrut Police Station, he was shot by an unidentified person [as published]. He succumbed to his wounds.

Leading security officials from the Asyut Security Directorate and experts from the criminal laboratory have examined the scene of the incident. A search is under way in the region to look for the culprits. A prosecutor has been identified to start the investigation.

Musa, PRC Ambassador Discuss Mideast, Korea

NC0904143294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received Chinese Ambassador to Cairo Yang Fuchang today.

The Chinese ambassador said after the meeting that his country welcomes President Husni Mubarak's visit to China. He added that Mubarak's visit to his country comes when strong relations link the two countries and hoped that the visit will promote and develop the ties between the two friendly countries.

He emphasized that the two countries' views on various world issues are identical and stressed China's support for the Middle East peace process. He expressed his hope that a comprehensive and just peace will be achieved in the region and said his country is trying to advance the peace process.

The ambassador said China supports the need for the Korean Peninsula to be free of all nuclear weapons and for the problem between the two Koreas to be resolved through negotiations.

Libya

Chad Interior, Defense Ministers End Visit

LD0804121794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1050 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Apr—Chadian brothers Abderamane Izzo, interior and security minister, and Mamadou Reigu, defense minister and an accompanying delegation left Tripoli today following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

JANA: America Suffering From 'Power-Mania'

LD0904181094 Tripoli JANA in English 1805 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] London, Al-Tayr [April] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The American assistant secretary of state for international security said in a press statement on Thursday that Iraq, Iran, Libya and North Korea must be prevented from obtaining some types of sensitive technology.

America suffers from power-mania, practices a strange racial discrimination, deals with world resources and peoples' rights in a tragic manner and mankind are being threatened as a result of American behaviour.

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Ties With Egypt, U.S.

NC0604134694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Apr 94 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Arafah] Is there concrete evidence that Israel is supplying the southern rebels with weapons?

[Abu-Salih] It is a fact that Israeli weapons are reaching the rebels. We have had evidence in the past. Israel has been involved in supporting the rebellion since the sixties. All the rebels' weapons originate in Israel. The incident in which a plane loaded with weapons was headed for Uganda is just one aspect of Israel's support for the rebels.

['Arafah] Have you agreed with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on a date for resumption of the talks on Hala'ib? Why have negotiations been postponed for so long?

[Abu-Salih] We have been waiting for Foreign Minister Musa since September. We have sent him an invitation but he has not come. I told him this when he visited me (in the hotel). No agreement was reached with him on a date. However, we are waiting for him at any time.

Regarding the postponement of the talks, why don't you ask Egypt about this postponement? Why don't you ask Foreign Minister Musa this question? We have agreed to proceed in accordance with what Presidents Mubarak and al-Bashir agreed upon—namely, to draw up a framework for relations between the two countries. We have not been negligent and we do not want to blame anyone. Therefore, we did not want to submit the issue of Hala'ib to the Arab League meetings. We are still waiting for 'Amr Musa to honor us with a visit!

['Arafah] It has been said that there is U.S. support for the rebels in the south. On the other hand, Sudanese Foreign Ministry officials have stated that they are convinced that the United States does not want to topple the present regime. Is there a contradiction in the stand of the United States?

[Abu-Salih] We take everyone at their word. The United States, according to its ambassador in Khartoum, says it does not support the rebels and does not do anything to topple the government. Secret actions by other nonofficial U.S. quarters (for example intelligence) is another matter!

['Arafah] It has been reiterated that there is a new dialogue between the United States and Sudan. For this purpose, the U.S. President has appointed a special representative to Sudan. He will also send his UN ambassador to Sudan at the end of this month.

[Abu-Salih] Dialogue with the United States started a long time ago. U.S. Secretary Christopher referred to this dialogue even though Sudan is included on the list of the states that support terrorism. Recently, there has been the impression or signals that there is hope that this dialogue will be continued. For our part, we have already stated that we need balanced relations with the United States. I will meet with President Clinton's envoy on 31 March. She will carry a message from Clinton to al-Bashir. I believe that this mission will help promote dialogue between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Abu-Salih on U.S., UK 'Plot' To Divide Country

JN1004113394 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 11 Apr 94 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—first three paragraphs are AL-MUHARRIR introduction]

[Text] Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih has stressed that he presented to the Arab League Council a detailed memorandum on the plot concocted by some western countries aimed at dividing Sudan and separating parts of it. He said that Sudan is confronting these schemes with firmness and that it possesses the power to abort them.

Asked by AL-MUHARRIR on the latest developments in the issue of Hala'ib between Egypt and Sudan, Abu-Salih said he has met with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa and agreed on continuing the dialogue regarding this problem as well as on overcoming the obstacles in bilateral relations. He added: We are working together to establish distinguished Egyptian-Sudanese relations because they are strategic relations. These special relations, he added, should be an example and the cornerstone for strong Arab relations.

The Sudanese foreign minister noted that the two countries reached agreement to resume the meetings of the Hala'ib committee. He said that Presidents Mubarak and al-Bashir charged him and 'Amr Musa with discussing all aspects of bilateral relations, reviewing the various problems, and defining ways to tackle them. He said that Khartoum will receive the Egyptian foreign minister soon to discuss the unresolved problems.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Have you noticed any positive response from Cairo to overcome these differences?

[Abu-Salih] We refused to announce the contents of these differences through the media and agreed to discuss them quietly at the negotiating table and during the joint bilateral meetings. We found a positive response, seriousness, and a desire to tackle all these issues. This will be achieved through expediting some meetings and holding talks under the chairmanship of both ministers.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Are you optimistic over the normalization of bilateral relations?

[Abu-Salih] Yes. We have been optimistic for a long time. Bilateral relations only need reinforcement of confidence and rebuilding of bridges.

[AL-MUHARRIR] What is your assessment of the current Sudanese- Arab relations?

[Abu-Salih] I would like to stress that Sudan's main concern is to develop and strengthen relations with the Arab brothers. This is a firm strategy from which we will not deviate. Proceeding from this, we support all initiatives aimed at achieving strong and stable relations among the Arab countries. We also work toward bypassing the current state of fragmentation.

[AL-MUHARRIR] Once again, who is behind the plot aimed at encroaching on the unity of Sudan, particularly in the South?

[Abu-Salih] As I said, some western countries are playing the Southern card in an attempt to divide Sudan. Our people, however, supported by our Arab brothers, will foil these schemes which are not only aimed against Sudan but against pan-Arab security. This constitutes a threat to the entire nation. We reject any encroachment on our sovereignty or territorial integrity no matter what the price.

[AL-MUHARRIR] What are these foreign quarters exactly?

[Abu-Salih] America and Britain are not far from what is happening. Many symposiums are being held in these two countries whose main concern is the situation in southern Sudan. They claim that the people there must be granted the right to self- determination. We absolutely reject this because in the South there are armed rebels who represent only the minority. Our task is to hold dialogue with them although they do not represent the South.

Minister: Khartoum Not To Change Stand Toward Iraq

JN0804170394 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[By AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent in Khartoum]

[Excerpt] Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al- Basit Sabdarat has said Sudan will never change its principled position toward Iraq because Iraq's cause is fair. In a statement to the AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent in Khartoum, the Sudanese minister said the economic sanctions on the lofty Iraq are eroding, thanks to the great and historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn. He said the recent Security Council resolution is neither fair nor legal, adding that it is enough to say that France, Russia, China, and some other states did not approve of the final statement.

Sabdarat praised the steadfastness of the Iraqi people in the face of aggression and blockade, stressing that there is an unusual chemistry in the structure of the Iraqi people, whose achievements under the siege are greater than under normal circumstances. I do not believe any other people under the same pressure and siege could have achieved what the Iraqis have achieved. The Sudanese information minister said the most important achievement of the Iraqi leadership was that it prevented any fragmentation of the country, as was planned, and that the national structure and unity of Iraq was maintained. He added that the most important achievement of the people of Iraq is their rallying around the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The Sudanese minister said the blockade will collapse now that the Iraqis have quickly adapted themselves to the imposed conditions and developments and become a great giant through their great and historic achievements. [passage omitted]

Army Command Urges University Graduates To Enlist

NC0904190194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Apr (MENA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces General Command today called on all graduates of universities, higher institutes, and high schools to quickly join the national service by joining the ranks of the armed forces. It warned that if the graduates fail to join the Armed Forces, they will be subject to punishment according to the law.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Chamber of Deputies Address

LD0904133094 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1018 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Address by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the Chamber of Deputies in Tunis following his taking the constitutional oath on his reelection as president of the republic—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful. Mr. Speaker; deputies; the holding of the first session of your respected house, which coincides with the 9 April anniversary, has more than one significance. [passage omitted]

As a gesture of a pledge to those pure martyrs, those brave people, those militants and those who fought for the goals of the country; and as the best greetings and honor that one can give them, we should all be at the level of national responsibility, and at the level of the trust that the people placed in us by electing us. We should place the people's interests above all other considerations, and we should work continuously to realise their ambitions and aspirations within the framework of justice, dignity, solidarity and stability, within the principles and the visions laid down in the 7 November Declaration, which we have been implementing gradually, a policy that has resulted in a number of achievements and gains for our people. [passage omitted]

Your duties, which you will carry out in this chamber, will enable you to closely view all things concerned with the political, economic and social course of this country.

Your participation in the regional assemblies will enable you to be absolutely informed about the realities of your areas and the expectations of the people. In both cases, it will help you to follow up the government's activities in all fields and to enrich the contents of plans and proposed budgets with your contributions and clarifications. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen, because of the differences in your party affiliations, the multiparty system—for the first time—has materialized in the Chamber of Deputies. It was a fundamental choice made available by the policies we followed since the move for change to establish democracy and pluralism. We stressed in the 7 November declaration that our people are worthy of a developed political life, truely based on multiparties and popular organizations.

From this context, we developed laws and institutions in line with the society's development. Your election took place in the shadow of democracy, transparency, civilized behavior and under the administration's total neutrality. And so, pluralism has found its way into this chamber. [passage omitted]

In the new stage we will work on consolidating the foundations of a civil society, entrenching democracy, strengthening human rights by disseminating its values and spreading it, assuring legal guarantees for everyone so that they may practise their freedoms in the widest scope given to them by law, respond to the requisites of justice, and ensure balance and cohesiveness of society.

Today, after the people have had their say and have chosen their representatives, the influence of every person in the political sphere has become apparent to all. There is no scope, outside these institutions and organizations, for anyone to speak in the name of the people except those who have the right to represent them or sectors of society. They, alone, are the ones qualified to do this.

The state of law, whose foundations we established and strengthened, does not solely mean the state's respect for the law, but also means respect for it by everyone—individuals, groups, organizations, institutions. We will also stand firm in the face of any outlaw employing any slogan. We will also not allow anyone who finds excuses in the name of freedom and human rights to cause damage to the homeland, distort its reputation or harm its relations with brothers and friends.

Each citizen has the right to defend his freedom and rights, and we will be the first to listen to him, to remove the grievances which could be imposed on him, and to enable him to obtain his rights in full and preserve his dignity, because we consider guaranteeing rights and protecting values to be a duty and a responsibility.

Our country is organized; it has its own institutions and bodies which have the capacity to guarantee all freedoms and rights, be it political, civil or humanitarian.

It is the responsibility of each quarter, body or individual, including human rights societies, to work toward respecting the law, implement it in all cases and to protect the rights of the group and its interests, and not to demand the suspension of the laws and search for reasons for infringements, or restrict oneself for defending whoever makes vocational errors and deliberately breaks the law for a selfish interest or personal purpose which he would make an issue for the people and the country.

Among the practices which simply indicate a feeling of inferiority and self-hate, is the initiative of some who issue statements directly to the foreign media as though they are seeking support against their country or appeal for assistance against it.

Honorable deputies, ladies and gentlemen. International institutions and agencies have praised our success and have renewed their readiness to cooperate with us. We have managed to clinch the confidence of private monetary institutions, which forge no deals except on the basis of the productivity and effectiveness of a partner. They have no other considerations. These monetary bodies would not do this if they had not found credibility and guarantees, seriousness and stability in our country, which encouraged them to make such deals.

All objective foreign media, for its part, also did not hesitate to praise our country's achievements in all fields, accomplished day after day. When it does this it balances between the positive and negative aspects. We welcome it and follow what it writes with interest.

We do not care what some foreign media has persisted in pursuing in an attempt to harm Tunisia's honor and undermine its sovereignty by publishing biased reports containing insults and slanders. It has opened its pages to some people who claim they belong to the world of journalism, or to some journalists whose nostalgia for the colonialist period has not abated and whose feelings of animosity and domination have not dwindled.

Such newspapers have no place in Tunisia, and doing away with them is very easy because of the spread of objective newspapers and other means of communication. The same is true of some nongovernmental organizations which have also not ceased claiming that they are mandated—in the name of human rights or freedom of the press—to discuss our laws, investigate how far we have implemented them. Others want to carry out referendums and opinion polls, and to publish only what pleases them, which is restricted in mentioning the shortcomings, or making up these shortcomings if they cannot find any.

Our country is not a laboratory or a test field, and is not in the custody of anyone. [applause]

Some countries deliberately shelter some Tunisian terrorists and do not hesitate to enable them to obtain asylum despite the decisive evidence and the firm rulings which we presented to those countries against those people. Some of these countries open their official media channels for thee terrorists and present them as victims of human rights and wasted freedoms. Those responsible for these actions would only be convinced by either of two ways: Either we embark on preplanned courses and enter ready made models in which they want to squeeze us and become like excellent pupils, with all the belittling aspects implied in this formula, or we admit to them that we are underdeveloped and our laws are confined and become subject matter for their pens and clubs.

Every successful person is envied. Were it not that our country was distinct, nobody would pay attention to it. Some quarters are offended by our success and envy us for it. They do not understand how we can carry out the necessary reforms, achieve distinguished gains and live in security and stability, and how we can succeed and be safe in matters where others have not succeeded and become safe despite the differences in the conditions and capabilities.

What essentially concerns us is our people's trust and their rallying around their system, their choices, and our trust in ourselves. We derive all this from the purity of our intention, the sincerity of our determination, the soundness of the accord program we are following, the importance of the gains we are achieving and from the prospects which unite between reality and the aspirations which we open before our country and people. [passage omitted: recalls election campaign and says current parliament will work toward achieving the pledges made]

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Bosnia

LD1004224294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry issued today a statement in which it said Tunisia is following with great concern the grave development in the situation in Bosnia due to the savage and escalating acts aiming at the unarmed civilian children of this country.

Tunisia, which had always stood by the causes of right, liberation, and justice, strongly condemns the policy of ethnic cleansing that blatantly contradict not only the right of the peoples to self-determination but also the most basic of human values and the most sacred of human rights—namely the right to life.

Tunisia, which had blessed the accord concluded in Washington between the Croats and the Bosnian Muslims, demands an immediate end to this campaign and addresses an urgent appeal to the international community, particularly to the Security Council, to carry out a speedy and decisive action to halt this aggression against the innocents and to provide the circumstances that ensure security and peace in the region.

GCC Trade Ministers Open Trade Committee Session

LD0604182994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 6 Apr (SPA)—Their excellencies the ministers of trade in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states began the proceedings of the 20th session of the Trade Cooperation Committee at the GCC headquarters in Riyadh today.

Dr. Sulayman al-Salim, Saudi commerce minister and chairman of the current session, delivered a speech at the start of the meeting, welcoming the GCC trade ministers and hailing the depth of cooperation between the GCC states. [passage omitted]

His excellency concluded his speech by saying: "International changes are aimed at achieving real free trade, particularly now that all the difficulties have been overcome and the Uruguay Round has ended in success. Endeavors are also under way to turn GATT into an international trade organization at the meeting due to be held in Marrakesh soon. All this imposes challenges on us and obliges us to make huge efforts to achieve greater freedom of trade among us; we must remove all procedural obstacles in order to pave the way so that we may keep up with and adapt to these positive international trends."

He also said that he hoped that everyone would cooperate to take more national goods off the list of the goods on which there is an import ban. He added that he would like to see the competent authorities reach a suitable formula to unify tariffs within the GCC. After this the commerce minister announced the end of the opening session.

Kuwait

Government Resigns Prior to Reshuffle

LD0904140994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Apr—'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs, has announced that the members of the Kuwaiti Government today tendered their resignations to the heir apparent and prime minister so as to carry out the required government reshuffle.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs told KUNA that a meeting was held today in the presence of all the ministers, during which the ministers studied the comprehensive speech that was delivered by the heir apparent and the prime minister to the Kuwaiti people last Monday [4 April], particularly the paragraph pertaining to the need for a government reshuffle in harmony with the requirements of the coming phase.

Al-Dakhil announced that the ministers agreed to give the heir apparent an opportunity to carry out the required reshuffle. To this end, all the ministers then submitted their resignations to the heir apparent and prime minister, who is expected to take the necessary measures in this regard.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs added that all ministers will remain in their posts until the issuance of the appropriate decrees on the new government composition.

Foreign Minister on Resignation

LD1004142694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1246 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Apr—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said today that the aim of the ministers' decision to tender their resignations to His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, was to give him the opportunity to re-form the government as he sees fit.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad pointed out in an exclusive statement to KUNA that this step followed the address the heir apparent and prime minister delivered to the Kuwaiti people on Monday last.

He added that the ministers decided "to give Shaykh Sa'd the opportunity to choose whomever he wants to cooperate with, and this is his right." [passage omitted]

With reference to the National Assembly's call yesterday to maintain the presence of six deputies in the forthcoming ministerial formation, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said "this is an issue for the prime minister."

Concerning his assessment of the experience of having six National Assembly members participating in the present government, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said it was "not an experience inasmuch as the Constitution stipulates the presence of at least one member from the National Assembly in the ministerial formation."

He went on to say: "Therefore, the inclusion of the National Assembly was a necessity, as otherwise there would be no government from the constitutional point of view." [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Iraqi Threat, Arms Deals

JN1004120794 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 2 Apr 94 pp 1, 8

["Special to the ARAB TIMES" by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Qadir and Sa'ud al-Farhan on news conference by Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah in Kuwait on 30 March]

[Text] Kuwait City, April 1: Thousands of Iraqi troops stationed in the south to crush Marsh Arabs could any moment start moving towards Kuwait, Minister of Defense Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said. The situation, however, is not similar to the morning of August 2, 1990, he added.

"Iraqi troops in the south (of Iraq) are posing a continuous threat to Kuwait. These troops could begin moving any moment and we are closely watching its movements and are completely ready to repulse any attack on Kuwait. These troops are capable of doing something but we are very alert," Shaykh 'Ali told a press conference.

The meeting took place Wednesday, was delayed for half an hour as the Minister was meeting with ambassadors of U.S. UK. and France who came to congratulate him for the Assembly's approval of the defense budget and discuss other issues.

The Minister accused Iraq of attempting to violate the Kuwaiti borders. "Firing across the borders against our troops was still taking place," affirmed the minister. He declared that Kuwait has completed digging the security trench on the borders with Iraq. leaving "four gates" as demanded by the United Nations.

He launched a scathing attack on those who have been criticising and opposing Kuwait's arms procurement. "Those have been acting out of their self interests," asserted the Minister who repeatedly came under fire in the National Assembly for allegedly squandering public funds to buy hundreds of millions worth of unnecessary arms. MPs alleged wide-ranging misuse of funds and kickbacks. A parliamentary committee is looking into such allegations.

Shaykh 'Ali said he could have easily gotten the KD3.5 billion [Kuwait dinars] defense budget through, had he approved "some personal favours for a number of MPs.

The Minister said that the latest Iraqi military moves in the south are not directed against Kuwait but could be any time. "Although these moves are not directed against Kuwait, it does not mean Kuwait is safe of Iraqi regime's plots, Iraq is still keeping relatively large forces. So, I may tell you now it's safe and there is nothing, and Iraqi troops start moving towards us the next morning", he said. [sentence as published]

"Iraqi troops stationed in the south are capable of doing something and the extent of this "thing" can be determined only after those troops start moving".

The Kuwaiti Defense Minister said Iraqi troops have been in the south for over a year now. "They are large troops and it's natural that we, and our allies, have been closely monitoring them round the clock," he said and added. "So far we have not seen a direct threat but the presence of such large number of troops and machinery is posing a certain threat to Kuwait".

Shaykh 'Ali said Iraqi troops have not made any aggressive moves so far as its movements have been confined to south of Iraq. He added that defense pacts Kuwait signed with four big powers include clauses on how to "organise and regulate repulsing an external attack on Kuwait." Under those agreements, Kuwaiti armed forces carried out about 100 military excercises with the Coalition countries and Russia. "These exercises have been intended at applying defensive plans" on how to defend the country.

He stressed that the position at present is not similar to what it was on August 2, 1990, when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait. "But the presence of regular Iraqi army in the south for training and crushing the uprising in southern Iraq, is a threat to the country. These troops could receive orders to move further south, towards Kuwait," he said. "The way Iraqi troops are scattered now does not pose an immediate threat on Kuwait but this assumption could change. This could be true for now, but it could reverse 180 degrees just one hour after this meeting. The decision is surely with Saddam Husayn," asserted the minister.

About the credibility of reports saying that Kuwait and the coalition countries have made a deal to carry out a military operation to rescue Kuwaiti POWs in Iraq, the minister said no deal has been signed with him personally. But he affirmed that all government bodies have been working very hard to achieve this target. "The Kuwaiti National Committeee for POWs has made a very important progress to put international pressure on Iraq to release the POWs. But whether or not Iraq would respond, the answer is surely with Saddam Husayn," he insisted.

He praised the decision taken by the UN Security Council members to continue sanctions against Iraqi regime. He said this shows these countries are convinced not to ease or lift sanctions against Iraqi regime. He said this shows these countries are convinced not to ease or lift sanction unless Iraq complied with all UN resolutions, especially those relating to border demarcation, respect of human rights and release of POWs and missing. "Until now, things look promising and satisfactory for us."

Shaykh 'Ali asserted that Kuwaiti post-liberation arms procurement has been based on scientific foundations and thorough evaluation and study. "Most of the defense ministry critics are inexperienced and their criticism lacked substance and facts", he said. Critics, mostly from the National Assembly, have based their opposition on the assumption that the KD3.5 billion budget was going to be used immediately. People should know it's for 12 years. He also denied allegations that half of the budget has already been spent.

The Defense Minister said that Kuwait has accepted a U.S. defense study on formulating a defense strategy in Kuwait. The U.S. study was picked up by top Kuwaiti military commanders in preference to studies submitted by Britain and France. "We explained to our friends in the three countries our position and requested a defense strategy to be suitable to us. A highly qualified Kuwaiti military team found that the U.S. study was the most appropriate. The strategy took into consideration Kuwait's financial and human resources," he said. The

amounts allocated also involve expenses for training. After the liberation, as many as 14,000 Kuwaiti military personnel have undergone training courses mainly how to handle the advanced weapons.

Shaykh 'Ali insisted that the Ministry of Defense cannot disclose all defense information because "most of it is classified." He challenged those who criticise the military establishment to prove their allegations. "These very same people have criticised the purchase of the Warrior APCs from UK after about 90 officers from the Army decided it was the best for Kuwait after conducting on spot examinations on the vehicle. Commander of the land troops, Brigadier Salim Mas'ud recommended the APC and he is the one who is going to use in fighting".

The Minister urged MPs to "isolate Kuwait's national interests from that of their own private interests. Some are insisting on us to buy certain arms because of vested interests." He defended the military establishments in regard to allegations of wide-spread kickbacks and illegal commissions. "This has become an exhausted issue that has no sympathy from the public. They claim to be having the evidence and we say they can send it to the prosecution. In fact, they are still demanding information from us," stressed the minister in reference to the Assembly's fact-finding panel.

He revealed that MP Mubarak al-Duwaylah, one of the most outspoken critics of the ministry, has asked him to sack the chief of staff and undersecretary of the ministry because "they are thieves" as al-Duwaylah stressed. The minister refused. He also said that most of the Kuwaiti arms repatriated from Iraq have been repaired and used.

On the Bedouns, stateless Arabs, the minister said that all those who fought to defend Kuwait should be considered Kuwaitis even if those happen to be Iraqis. He stressed such persons will not be dismissed from the Kuwaiti armed forces. Bedouns in the army are granted Kuwaiti passports to travel to certain countries.

The current Peninsula Shield troops will be the nucleus for the proposed 100,000-strong Gulf Army. The troops will have three exercises by next year. Shaykh 'Ali also said the ministry will shortly submit a new law for conscription which may include increasing the duration for conscripts.

Commenting on reports speculating a cabinet reshuffle, the minister said there has been some "thinking" about improving the whole administration including the cabinet. Soon after that the thinking changed and it was thought it would be better to leave the Cabinet as it is now. "But, the final decision is with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister", he stressed.

Shaykh 'Ali announced that the Kuwaiti troops in Somalia have started pulling out despite the fact that the UN wants them to stay. The pull out of Kuwaiti troops coincides with pulling other troops.

Chinese Envoy Voices Support for Rights

LD1004101094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0706 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 Apr—Zheng Jinggi, Chinese ambassador to the State of Kuwait, has expressed his country's readiness to exert intensive efforts to protect Kuwait's legitimate rights and guarantee peace and security in the Gulf region.

The Chinese ambassador said in a statement to AL-QABAS, published here today, that China "calls for complete respect of Kuwait's sovereignty, the actual implementation of the Security Council's resolutions in connection with the border demarcation, and the release of prisoners, detainees, and missing persons." [passage omitted]

He praised bilateral relations between his country and Kuwait, particularly political, economic, and commercial relations, and pointed out that the Kuwaiti fund for Arab economic development has offered loans at easy terms for 11 Chinese agricultural, industrial, and transport development projects, and that consultations are underway on six other projects. [passage omitted]

On the question of human rights in China, the ambassador affirmed that "China pays enormous attention to human rights," pointing out that "the Chinese people currently enjoy the widest democracy and freedom in history."

He said "we would like to conduct a dialogue on an equal basis on human rights with other countries, including the United States," to avoid the emergence of any obstacles which could affect the development of natural relations between the two countries because of this issue.

Qatar

Israeli Delegation Due in Doha for Arms Talks 2-5 May

NC1104060894 Paris AFP in English 2241 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Doha, April 10 (AFP)—An Israeli delegation is due here for the first time next month for talks on Middle East arms control, after Qatari foreign ministry sources said Sunday the negotiations would last from May 2 to 5.

Invitations to attend the talks in Doha have already started being sent out to interested countries and institutions to take part in the fifth round of talks on weapons non-proliferation, sources said.

But they refused to discuss any details of Israel's involvement in the negotiations, which form one of the five working groups set up as part of the multilateral Arab-Israeli peace process.

Israel is due to attend a meeting in Oman next Sunday to discuss water resources in the Middle East.

Oman will be the first Gulf monarchy to host a round of Middle East peace talks, at which the Israeli delegation is due to be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

Neither Oman or Qatar, like the other Gulf monarchies, have any official diplomatic relations with Israel.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Troops Enter Yemeni Territory

LD0904121594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0015 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Apr—In response to claims by the Yemeni paper AL-HIWAR, which stated that Saudi forces had penetrated five kilometers inside Yemeni territory, an official source at the Ministry of Defense, Aviation and the Inspectorate General said: The entire report of this paper is fabricated and has no foundation of truth. Yemeni officials themselves are aware of the extent of the falsity of the content of the newspaper's report.

The source added: As regard the other topics created by the said paper, they are, in our view, unworthy of any mention or consideration.

At the end of the statement the source said: While we are clarifying the truth to refute these claims, we underline the strength of the relations that link the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni Republic.

Yemen

U.S. 'Information' Reportedly Foils Assassination Plot

JN0904083294 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 9 Apr 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman Husayn in Washington]

[Excerpt] The United States has conveyed urgent information to an Arab capital, thus foiling an assassination plot just a few days before its implementation.

According to the information, a plot targeted Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, along with certain military and civilian leaders. The plot was to be linked to the current differences between Yemeni leaders, whether this was revealed before or after its implementation, in a manner that would pave the way for wide- scale fighting—not just a possible clash between the north and the south—that would drown the whole of Yemen in waves of fighting.

The source of the information at the U.S. Department of State refused to give more details on the plot, but hinted that regional quarters were aware of the plan and supported the assassination plot, which was due to be carried out during the first half of this month.

The source declined to reveal whether the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, was informed of the details of the plot or if only the Arab capital in question was asked to withdraw its support for the assassination plot and its sponsorship of those masterminding it.

The source also refused to draw a link between the current military buildup in Yemen and the exchange of accusations between the two main parties on one hand, and the assassination plot that was exposed on the other. It seems that the Yemeni leadership in Sanaa was not directly informed about the plot. [passage omitted]

Egyptian, UAE Ministers Arrive With Message

JN0904174494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Rashid Bin-'Abdallah, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian information minister, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country. They will meet with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said he and his brother, Rashid Bin-'Abdallah, are carrying a joint message from President Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to bring Yemeni views closer so Yemen will remain within the Arab fold. The letter also represents joint Arab efforts.

The joint delegation was received by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development; Hasan al-Lawzi, minister of information; and the Egyptian and UAE ambassador in Sanaa.

Salih Receives Ministers

JN1004073094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received at his office yesterday evening brothers Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian minister of information and envoy of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, minister of foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and envoy of His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The two envoys relayed to the brother president messages from his brothers His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the two countries' joint efforts and endeavors to contain the crisis.

The messages affirmed that both Egypt and the UAE are committed to promoting and safeguarding Yemeni

unity, given that it is a pan- Arab gain that must be protected in the interest of pan-Arab objectives and enhanced regional security and stability. The messages also underscored the need to resort to dialogue to resolve all differences in order to safeguard Yemeni unity and protect Yemen from mischief, God forbid.

The two messages also reiterated that Egypt and the UAE are eager to make every possible effort to approximate views, close Yemeni ranks, and pool resources to safeguard unity through the implementation of the accord document. They also indicated that all Arabs support Yemeni unity, and that they will not accept anything that could undermine this unity. They added that any party that believes otherwise is mistaken.

The two messages underlined the importance of halting media campaigns, and any step that could lead to infighting or violence. They also stressed the need to promote trust in order to create the propitious climate for dialogue in order to foster unity and safeguard stability in Yemen.

For his part, the brother Presidential Council chairman highly appreciated the good offices made by the Egyptian and UAE brothers, headed by brothers President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. He commended the noble pan-Arab positions they have taken to support their Yemeni brothers and foster Yemeni unity, which is not a gain for only Yemen, but for the entire Arab nation. He affirmed that Yemeni unity is the destiny and fate of the Yemeni people. He added: We will never abandon this unity, regardless of the costs. Any path other than unity will cause a catastrophe in Yemen. Such a catastrophe is bound to affect the region and the Arab nation. He affirmed his renunciation of war, and his adherence to dialogue as the best means of addressing the situation and meeting the challenges posed by the political crisis and its regrettable repercussions.

The brother Presidential Council chairman asked the two envoys to relay his greetings to his brothers President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and to also communicate to them his wishes of continued progress and prosperity for the Egyptian and UAE peoples.

Committees Visit Dhamar, Report Situation 'Normal'

JN0904192994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Summary From Poor Reception] The Joint Military Committee led by Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of staff for operations affairs; and Staff Colonel Muhammad Haytham, deputy chief of staff for logistics affairs, has completed easing the security and military situation in the city of Dhamar. It defused tensions between the units, and returned the situation to normal.

The Joint Military Committee and the committee designated by the House of Representatives today visited the Republican Guard and Central Security camps in Dhamar. The two committees met with elite commanders and soldiers, who briefed them on the reasons for the military developments that led to some problems in the governorate.

During this visit, Staff Col. Salah and Staff Col. Haytham conveyed the greetings of Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to those affiliated with these units. They said that the two committees visited the governorate in order to learn about what happened and about the real situation there. They assured everyone that the current situation in the governorate is stable thanks to the good ones who assisted the Joint Military Committee since the very moment it arrived in the governorate.

The two colonels also asserted that the situation in the governorate is normal now. In his speech, Staff Col. Salah explained that we are the sons of one homeland who were trained and qualified to be honest guards of this people. He stressed that everyone should enjoy self-restraint, particularly under the current circumstances of the crisis in order to prevent the homeland's enemies from achieving their objectives. These enemies do not want stability, peace, and unity for us, he added, urging everyone to rise above differences.

In other development, the Joint Military Committee and the House committee held a meeting at the Dhamar governorate's building, which was also attended by the officials in charge of local and security authorities. They reviewed the governorate's security situation and some problems it is facing.

The two colonels made a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA'. They emphasized that the security situation in the governorate of Dhamar had returned to normal and that the daily life of citizens is completely stable. They pointed out that the two committees continue to investigate the reasons for what happened. They also urged all political forces and leaders to adhere to what was agreed.

Afterward, the Joint Military Committee visited a camp in the town of Yarim. It met with the officers and soldiers of the camp, and was briefed on the difficulties they are facing.

Attacks Against Regime Forces in South Reported

NC0504162294 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] In a swift and urgent retaliation to the brutal operations carried out by the forces of tyrant Saddam in the marshes of southern Iraq, the Islamic resistance forces launched a series of heroic attacks against the regime's forces and oppressive establishments in al-Nasiriyah Governorate late last month. The resistance operations followed a brutal attack launched by the regime.

Our sources in the governorate said an Islamic resistance group directed a destructive blow to the al-Nasiriyah Security Directorate. Mortar shells were used in the attack, which damaged [words indistinct] near the governorate office. Four members of the governorate office, including two officers, were killed. At the same time, the Islamic resistance directed a painful blow to one of the offices of the ruling party in al-Nasiriyah, known as the al- Muthanna branch. Three criminals were killed and a number of others were injured. Another Islamic resistance group delivered a devastating blow to a security center in the city of al-Bakr, north of al-Nasiriyah. Six regime members were injured and massive material damage was inflicted on the center.

Our sources noted panic among the regime agents. The authorities almost completely closed off the entrances to al-Nasiriyah, isolating the governorate from the other southern and central governorates. Searches, raids, and arrests of citizens were launched and the regime forces were put on maximum alert.

Turkish 'Warplanes' Reportedly Attack Kurd Villages

NC0604172094 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The day before yesterday a squadron of Turkish warplanes attacked several villages and hamlets inside the Kurdistan region on the pretext that Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] elements are in the area, which is near the Turkish border. [passage omitted] The attacks caused no civilian casualties.

Air Force Head in Amman To Oversee 'Secret Air Bases'

PM0704150194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Apr 94 p2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Speaks of Suspect Iraqi Behavior"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Iraqi opposition is talking about suspect Iraqi internal and external developments. The "Free Iraqi Council," based in London, says that the Baghdad Government has leaked rumors claiming that Air Force Commander Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b Hasan al-Tikriti is in Amman for medical reasons, but Arab diplomatic sources emphasize that he went to Amman on the direct orders of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to supervise the building of "secret" air bases to be used when necessary and, in times of despair, for escape because he now fears a coup by the military commanders closest to him at any moment.

The "Council" also says that there is a mounting campaign of condemnation and denunciation in Sanaa and Aden because of the Saddam regime's increasing interference in the Yemeni crisis and fueling the fire there. It adds that a number of political figures and tribal chiefs and some sections of the press have expressed anger at the arrival of 20 Iraqi pilots in Sanaa and the payment of funds to some tribal chiefs and officers loyal to the Iraqi Ba'th party for the purpose of holding Western experts working in Yemen as hostages and assassinating supporters of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and accusing the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership of doing that in retaliation for the assassination of its supporters for which elements loyal to President Salih were blamed.

A statement issued by the "Council," a copy of which has been received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, says that, at the internal level, there is growing alarm among most Iraqi merchants, especially those who move between Baghdad and Amman, after the death of Iraqi businessman al-Hajj 'Abd-al-Latif Bunyah in a road accident as he was driving his car to Jordan. Accusing fingers have been pointed at the Iraqi intelligence services and aides of the Iraqi president's son 'Udayy.

It should be recalled that al-Hajj 'Abd-al-latif had loaned the Iraqi Government large sums of money and was in competition with 'Udayy for the control of the international Coca-Cola Company's agency. He also allegedly criticized the Iraqi Government's financial policy on more than one occasion.

Bombs Reportedly Explode Near 2 Ministries in Baghdad

NC0804123894 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Amman, 8 April (AFP)—Bombs exploded 15 minutes apart near Iraqi ministries in Baghdad on Wednesday, an Iraqi group said here Friday without reporting casualties.

"An explosive device was placed at al-Nidal Street about 100 meters (300 feet) from the Industry Ministry and another was placed near the agriculture and Irrigation Ministry," the Iraqi National Congress said in a statement.

"The two explosions caused panic among security services and coincided with the anniversary of the foundation of the ruling (Ba'th) party," said the statement dated from Sulaymaniyah and Kurdish-controlled norther Iraq.

It said the first occurred at 5:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) and the second at 5:45 a.m. (0145 GMT).

Bombing Reported in Irbil Mosque; 'Agents' Confess

NC0804155094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] According to opposition sources in the north, a bomb went off early this week at the main mosque in Irbil, causing no deaths.

A spokesman for the Kurdish Administration has blamed the regime of tyrant Saddam for this and other bombings that have occurred in northern Iraq. The spokesman said that the aim of these bombings is to undermine security and stability in northern Iraqi. The spokesman added that security organs in the area uncovered a number of subversive attempts planned by the regime's agents. The detained agents confessed that the authorities of the Ba'thist regime forced them to carry out these subversive acts and promised to reward them generously.

'Vital' Buildings at Imam 'Ali Air Base Set on Fire

NC0904172494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] As part of their plan to deter the regime from committing crimes and oppressive acts against the inhabitants of the southern marshlands, the Islamic resistance forces on 19 March dealt a destructive blow to the al-Nasiriyah Governorate's air base, known as the Imam 'Ali Air Base, attacking it with 120-mm and 82-mm mortars.

Our sources in al-Nasiriyah confirm that the base's vital installations were set afire. The sound of explosions continued to be heard for a long time after the operation.

Air Force Chief Recovers From Amman Hotel Fire Injuries

JN1104140594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 11 Apr 94 p 2

[From "Through the Window" feature]

[Text] Major General Hisham 'Ata 'Ajaj, the Iraqi Air Force chief of staff, has recovered from burns sustained in last week's [Amman] Forte Grand Hotel fire, which occurred in circumstances suggesting arson.

Maj. Gen. 'Ajaj was on a private visit to Amman and his name was not listed among the injured.

Governor's, District Officer's Headquarters Attacked

NC0904191594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] In a report from inside Iraq, our sources say that a group of the Islamic resistance threw three hand grenades at the al-Nasiriyah governor's headquarters during his meeting with security and intelligence officials. The sources say the resulting explosion inflicted material damage on the building, wounded a number of its guards, and prompted the governor and the regime's henchmen to hide in an underground shelter.

In another development, the resistance dealt a destructive blow to the district officer's headquarters in al-Nasiriyah on the evening of 18 March. Various types of light and medium weapons and mortars were used. Our sources confirm that eight regime elements were killed and others wounded. Heavy damage was inflicted on the building, which the regime uses as a center for its mercenaries and criminals who monitor the citizens' movements and arrest them.

Opposition Radio Claims 2 Intelligence Officers Killed

NC0704173494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Two officers of Saddam's intelligence service have been killed in central Baghdad. Sources opposed to the Ba'thist regime said unknown persons assassinated the two officers late last week and that security forces rushed to the scene, cut off all roads leading to it, and launched a search of the public in shops and other places nearby.

The sources added that Saddam's security agencies arrested several citizens and took them to unknown locations. [passage omitted]

Military Maneuvers Reportedly Planned in North

NC0804154494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Reports from Iraqi Kurdistan indicate that the regime of the tyrant Saddam is in the process of moving hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles, thousands of troops, and dozens of missiles with a range of 150 km [100 miles] to an area bordering Iraqi Kurdistan. The reports add that the regime plans to hold large-scale military maneuvers in this area. Military planes and helicopters are expected to take part in the drills.

According to our sources, 'Ali Hasan Majid, Saddam's defense minister and cousin, is in Mosul to supervise the deployment of the regime's forces and the military maneuvers.

Ranking Military Officer Defects to U.S.

JN1004102094 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 2 Apr 94 pp 1, 19

[Text] AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned from exclusive sources that a ranking Iraqi officer who was very close to Saddam Husayn has defected to the United States through Turkey after doubts were cast on his role in the attempt to topple the regime that was discovered two months ago, following which a number of ranking military commanders were executed.

These sources said the officer had played a central role in preparing for the invasion of Kuwait, and was directly responsible for all cash payments and gifts that were given to top officials and a large number of journalists in some Arab countries in order to extend material and moral support for the Iraqi adventure against Kuwait.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM also learned that the Iraqi officer will hold a news conference soon to reveal in figures and names the huge sums of money the Iraqi regime had given to some political and military officials and journalists shortly before the treacherous invasion.

Al-Sahhaf on Sanctions, U.S., French Ties

JN1104082494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by radio correspondent Jayda'; place and date not given; from the "Today's Guest" program]

[Text] [Jayda'] We are pleased to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

[Al-Sahhaf] I welcome you.

[Jayda'] [words indistinct] discussion of lifting the embargo from Iraq. To what extent has Iraq responded to the UN Security Council resolutions?

[Al-Sahhaf] Iraq has responded to the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687. This is documented in the UN Security Council records. That is why Iraq recently asked the UN Security Council in a letter signed by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to fulfill its commitments and implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which calls for lifting the economic embargo from Iraq. Within the Arab League framework, we are supported by the general secretariat and the secretary general to maintain the atmopshere that calls for lifting the embargo from Iraq and the Iraqi people. We did not submit a draft resolution to the Arab League Council because we do not want one, two, or three members to come out with harmful political objectives, thus showing that the Arabs disagree on Iraq's request. We remain satisfied with the general atmopshere of support provided by the Arab League secretary general.

[Jayda'] Your Excellency, what is the truth behind what is being reported on there being Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq and what is Iraq's stand on this issue?

[Al-Sahhaf] There are no prisoners in Iraq. We [words indistinct] through the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. Others became aware that the issue is one of missing people. There are internationally acknowledged procedures and rules for following up the issue of missing people, not to mention that the ICRC also follows up such issues. In the aggression against Iraq, and during the crisis, there were missing people. One should search for them, and collect information about them. This takes time, and this is not the first time that this happens. In all crises, wars, and armed conflicts, people are reported missing. The search for them continues. As you know, the Americans are still following up the issue of those missing in action in Vietnman. This issue is similar to the other. They waged an all-out war against Iraq. One can say that it was a third world war against Iraq. There were victims in this war, and people were reported missing. The question is one of missing people. We cooperate in accordance with acknowledged procedures to collect any information we might obtain during our invesigation, and search to determine the fate of these missing people. There are also tens of thousands of Iraqis who are reported missing. We will also ask that searches be carried out, investigations conducted, and information collected on them.

[Jayda'] Your Excellency Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, what are the dimensions of the Iraq-Gulf relationship in light of opening channels with Qatar, Oman, and recently with Bahrain?

[Al-Sahhaf] These are the dimensions of an Arab relationship between two Arab countries. These are normal dimensions. Iraqi relations exist with our brothers in the Gulf, particularly with Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain. We seek to promote these relations. This is a joint effort and a common desire between us and our brothers in these three Arab countries. God willing, these normal relations with the brothers will witness broader scopes of cooperation and joint action.

[Jayda'] Mr. Minister, how does the Kurdish problem affect the domestic state of affairs in Iraq, and how true are the reports about foreign assistance?

[Al-Sahhaf] As a result of the U.S.-led imperialist game in northern Iraq, northern Iraq has become an arena for gangs, killings, and plundering. They are even stealing electricity poles and selling them in Iran. Therefore, great harm has been inflicted since 1991 when the U.S. and allied forces interfered in northern Iraq and supported gangs there. The harm done to the sons of our Kurdish people in Iraq is very great. There are epidemics there. Nothing is available there. People in northern Iraq are suffering greatly. There is no security. Killings and thefts are everywhere. This inflicts great harm on Iraq because that part of Iraq, northern Iraq, is a beloved part. It goes without saying that there are Arab parties—

we are not leveling accusations lightly but on the bases of facts and information—which provide thse gangs with money and weapons.

[Jayda'] The question of Arab reconciliation was supposed to top the agenda of the meeting of Arab foreign ministers. What is Iraq's role in Arab reconciliation?

[Al-Sahhaf] You know that the Arab League secretary general has put forward an initiative for pan-Arab reconciliation. The initiative contains ideas and suggestions. The Arab League secretary general asked Arab states to make observations and comments on this initiative. As an Arab country that fully embraces pan-Arab action and joint Arab action, the initiative was given due attention. Thus, we studied it carefully and sent our observations to the secretary general. We criticized some paragraphs containing points which we thought were inaccurate and did not give the question its proper scope and should be developed to complete what was missing. On the other hand, we supported other paragraphs because we thought they were appropriate and correct. Therefore, we presented a mature, studied paper as a contribution from Iraq to the secretary general, upon his request, so that different views would lead to a feasible program that brings about pan-Arab reconciliation.

[Jayda'] Mr. Minister, what are the latest developments in the relations with the West, particularly Iraqi-French relations?

[Al-Sahhaf] You know that diplomatic relations with all European states, except Britain and France, remained in place. As for Britain and France, after agreeing with them, a section to look after interests was opened in their capitals. In turn, they have asked the embassies of some countries in Baghdad to look after their interests. Thus, relations continued to exist through this diplomatic channel. Relations in terms of trade, mutual interests, and the economy do not exist because of the Iraq embargo. However, I can characterize the relationship between Iraq and European nations as follows: Iraq's relationship with these countries, as reflected through companies, is a good relationship. Hundreds of European companies come to Baghdad. However, relations with governments exist only through an ordinary diplomatic channel and that is all.

[Jayda'] Are their any developments in French relations?

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, regarding Iraqi-French relations, there has been a positive change in relations between the two countries, which was only natural because relations of cooperation and mutual interests between Iraq and France are broad and large and deserve careful consideration. The two countries have resumed coordination and activation of the previous relationship. We have covered a considerable distance in this regard, and the relationship between Iraq and France is now proceeding in the right direction. We hope it will continue along this road until it returns to its previous status, if not better.

[Jayda'] Mr. Minister, is Iraq willing to normalize relations with the United States?

[Al-Sahhaf] Even when the president of the United States was George Bush himself, who led the brute aggression against Iraq, we told the Americans we were willing to talk and to have an equal, serious dialogue. This proves that Iraq believes—and we truly believe in this—that dialogue is not to be held with one party alone, excluding others. As long as there are possible interests, we believe that the way to serve these interests is dialogue. We have no problem with that. We continue to call for dialogue, and if the same desire and political will are available for the other party, then there will be dialogue. This is a natural thing between all countries.

[Jayda'] To conclude this conversation, I would like to know your assessment of the Arab foreign minister conference in Cairo at the Arab League?

[Al-Sahhaf] This meeting did not address many substantive issues. There were several important issues on the agenda. However, these require further consideration and discussion to become mature enough and ready to make appropriate decisions on them. There were positive discussions that underline a mutual desire to see work develop within the Arab League and within other frameworks of joint Arab action. We think this approach should be promoted and supported to enable it to develop further. Regarding some hot issues, the Arab League, as you know, has adopted positive positions on these issues, such as the crime of the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque and support for the Palestinian people. There is active follow-up on economic issues. Credit here goes really to the activity of the Arab League secretary general and the General Secretariat of the Arab League.

[Jayda'] Thank you Mr. Minister.

[Al-Sahhaf] You are welcome.

Assembly Begins Spring Term; Speaker Assails U.S.

JN0204202494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] The National Assembly today held the first session of its spring term, which will last two months, under Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

The session was started with a reading from the Opening Chapter of the Koran to evoke God's mercy on the souls of those who are nobler than all of us, namely, Iraq's righteous martyrs, who sacrificed their lives in defense of the nation's honor and dignity.

Then, Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih delivered a speech reviewing the current Arab and international state of affairs in light of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracy that is targeting the Iraqi territories, people, and civilization. He said: What the United States is doing against the Iraqi people (?does not) reflect an arbitrary

policy. Rather, this anti-Iraq U.S. conduct is the manifestation of an ingrained and deep-seated malice dwelling within the psyches of Zionist occupiers.

The National Assembly speaker urged Iraqis to double their efforts and make further sacrifices to thwart the imperialist conspiracy, which is targeting our homeland and nation. He added: We must be at the forefront of those advocating harmony, unity, solidarity, and affection so that we may bring about an awareness of the importance of unity, patriotism, and loyalty to the nation, whose values we must uphold.

Afterward, the Assembly members listened to a detailed report read out by Deputy Assembly Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz. The report addressed the activities recently carried out by the permanent Assembly committees in the political, parliamentary, economic, social, legal, health, service, and trade spheres.

Baghdad Protests Saudi, Kuwaiti Bases for Allied Aircraft

JN0404114994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers continue to grant facilities to the U.S., British, and French aircraft for violating Iraqi airspace and threatening Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter he addressed to the Arab League secretary general yesterday, Iraq's Arab League permanent representative said that these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace 25-30 April from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and carried out 233 hostile air sorties.

A list appended to the letter explains these violations in detail.

Mosul Reported 'Tense'; Opposition To Meet 16 Apr

NC0704173394 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] An Iraqi opposition source in Damascus has stated that the Iraqi regime forces have tightened the cordon they imposed on Mosul in anticipation of civil disobedience by the city's inhabitants.

Bayan Jabir, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq's representative in Damascus, said the situation in the city is very tense. He added that the executive committee of the Unified Iraqi National Congress will meet in Salah-al-Din in Iraqi Kurdistan on 16 April to discuss the deteriorating situation in Iraq in light of these developments.

Ba'th Party Official Returns From Visit to Russia

JN0804090494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has returned to Baghdad after a visit of several days to Moscow, where he held talks with Russian Government officials and party leaders.

In an arrival statement to the Iraqi News Agency, 'Abd-al-Ghafur said Russian party chiefs are impressed by the pace of Iraq's renewal, led by President Saddam Husayn, who has turned into a symbol of the fight against imperialist hegemony.

'Abd-al-Ghafur said he hoped that when the UN Security Council next reviews Iraq's compliance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 calling for lifting the sanctions, Russia will adopt an even more postitive attitude. Iraq, he noted, had fulfilled the obligations stipulated by the council resolutions, unfair as they are.

Russian Government officials and party leaders emphasized that retention of the sanctions hurts not only the Iraqi people but Russia as well. They reiterated Russia's willingness to maintain excellent relations with Iraq, 'Abd-al-Ghafur added. [passage omitted]

Cuban Official on Visit to Iraq, Bilateral Talks

JN0604165594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahman]

[Text] Nicolas Rodriguez, under secretary of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, has said that the economic embargo Iraq is facing is the same embargo Cuba has been facing for 32 years.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH, he said that the embargo is an expression of a tendency by the superpowers not to respect the will of peoples and nations seeking to achieve progress. He added that this embargo is beginning to show its negative effects on Iraq and Cuba.

Assessing Cuban-Iraqi relations, Rodriguez said: Relations between our two friendly countries, Cuba and Iraq, are deep-rooted and have been continuously developing in various fields. We believe that continuing the policy of reinforcing relations and improving cooperation between our peoples will serve the interests and objectives of both countries. We also believe that this cooperation is necessary, useful, and important, in light of the difficult circumstances our two countries are facing.

On the objective of his visit to Iraq and his talks with Iraqi officials, the Cuban guest said: My visit to Iraq is aimed at furthering cooperation and developing relations of friendship between our two countries and peoples, not just under the current circumstances, but also in

the future. My visit is also aimed at getting a broader outlook on the circumstances our friends in Iraq are facing. At the same time, I hope to brief our friends on the situation in Cuba.

I was happy with the talks I held with our friends, the officials in Iraq. I was even happier to find that our friends, the Iraqi officials, understand the circumstances facing Cuba. My talks were brotherly and very fruitful.

Khudayyir Reaffirms Support for India on Kashmir

BK0604035794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Iraqi prime minister, Mr. Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, has said that his country will continue to support the Indian stand on Kashmir. He said that the relations between Iraq and India are based on friendship and cooperation. The Iraqi prime minister was talking to a visiting Indian delegation led by Mr. John Joseph, member of the National Commission for Minorities, in Baghdad yesterday. He reiterated that the Iraqi response will continue to be the same in the years to come.

Foreign Ministry Source Cited on New Diplomatic Move

JN1104122194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Apr 94 pp 1, 27

["Exclusive" report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid from Baghdad]

[Text] Iraq will begin a broad diplomatic move in the international arena on 14 April.

This move, which takes advantage of the new situation manifested in the Security Council's periodic discussion of the economic blockade on Iraq, is aimed at explaining Baghdad's position on a number of issues, including its implementation of Security Council resolutions and its response to the resolution on long-term monitoring of weapons of mass destruction. The adverse effects on the people caused by the blockade in terms of food and medicine shortages will also be explained.

AL-DUSTUR learned from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry sources that a number of ministers, advisers, and diplomats will leave Baghdad simultaneously for a number of Arab and foreign capitals. Minister of Culture and Information Hamid Yusuf Hammadi will visit Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Djibouti, and Libya. Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf will visit Malaysia, Indonesia, and India.

Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent envoy to the UN mission in Geneva will tour Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari will visit Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Portugal, and the Netherlands. Second Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Wisam al-Zahawi will visit Greece, Italy, the Vatican, New Zealand, Germany, and Japan. Counselor Wahbi Qurrah Ghuli will visit Venezuela and Argentina. The Iraqi foreign minister is scheduled to make another tour for the same purpose, but the source declined to name the capitals the second tour will include.

Meanwhile, Baghdad is witnessing increasing diplomatic activities. A Turkish Foreign Ministry undersecretary will arrive in Baghdad next Thursday to discuss the Iraqi oil pipeline crossing Turkish territory and the possibility of selling the oil locked in it since the embargo on Iraqi oil exports in August 1990 when the Security Council adopted resolutions imposing economic and technological sanctions against Baghdad.

Romanian Foreign Ministry undersecretary is currently visiting Baghdad as envoy of his country to the Iraqi leadership, and is carrying a message dealing with the detention of Romanian citizens in Iraq after judicial sentences were issued against them.

Preparations are under way in the Iraqi capital for the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who will hold talks on a number of issues between Tehran and Baghdad suspended since the cease-fire on 8 August 1988 after an eight-year war. Diplomats said Velayati will discuss with Iraqi officials the fate of prisoners and the Iraqi planes that took refuge in Iranian airports during the second Gulf war that broke out on 17 January 1991. The number of these planes is 148, including 22 civilian planes.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry source expects that the Iranian official will arrive in Baghdad leading a delegation that comprises a number of experts within the next two weeks.

The Iraqi envoys' visits to world capitals will prepare for the next debate on the oil embargo imposed on Iraq due to take place in New York next month.

An Indian envoy visited Baghdad last week and conveyed a message requesting the release of an Indian citizen who had been convicted by Iraqi judges.

Saddam Urges 'Nonstop Work' on al-Basrah Water Project

JN1104145294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by AL-THAWRAH correspondent Basim 'Atiyah]

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has called for the most efficient use of technical, human, and financial resources; continuous hard work; and extraordinary efforts to implement the Wafa' al-Qa'id River project in order to ensure potable drinking water for al-Basrah Governorate.

Engineer Ghayyath Khalil al-Hashimi, director at the offices of the Higher Committee for Irrigation Projects, has said that the leader president's directive called for nonstop work in order to expedite this project, noting that the cabinet has also taken adequate measures to fulfill the leader's wishes and complete the work on time.

The river project consists of three main sectors: The first begins at kilometer zero at the regulator point in al-Bad'ah and ends at kilometer 61.406 at the first pumping station.

The second sector begins at kilometer 63.530 in the town of al-Nasiriyah and ends at kilometer 120.323 in al-Laqit.

The third sector begins in al-Laqit and ends at the last station in Basra.

The project will ensure potable drinking water for 3 million people in the subdistricts of al-Shu'aybah, al-Harithah, Karmat 'Ali, Safwan, Umm Qasr, al-Zubayr, Abi al-Khasib in Basra, al-Nasiriyah, and Suq al-Shuyukh in Dhi Qar.

It is worth noting that the technical work for linking al-Nasiriyah and Suq al-Shuyukh regions has been completed by linking the river to al-Fadliyah and al-Sidaynawiyah outlets.

Rabin on Need for Political Solution, Security

TA1104071294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Karmit Gay and political correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Gay] It will be 13 April in two days. Target date or not, it seems to be farther away than before. A closure has been imposed on the territories after a wave of terror attacks, and we do not seem to be making any progress.

[Rabin] I disagree. The government has decided to opt for a political solution on the basis of the Declaration of Principles, signed in Washington, and the Cairo agreement, which settled the main security points regarding Gaza and Jericho. It states precisely that the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip will remain there in blocs and details the travel procedures for the Israelis there. We should remember that there are 5,000 Israelis and 750,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The agreement also settled the problem of the border crossings, as well as responsibility for external security on land, at sea, and in the air. Naturally, at the same time we are dealing with those Palestinians who fight the agreement through terrorism, primarily against Israelis. We suffered a severe blow in the ruthless murder in 'Afula by a suicide terrorist who activated a car bomb near a bus stop there. We suffered many fatalities in that instance. This war, conducted primarily against the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad terror organizations, continues. One of their men attacked passengers at the Ashdod Junction. We are aware of this, and we will fight them with all our might. I believe we will defeat them, although we have witnessed terror attacks in the past, and I fear that there is no hermetic solution to the problem of terrorism. We have not achieved this in the 46 years of the existence of the State of Israel.

Our effort today is directed at attaining a compound solution, one aspect of which is political—that is, getting rid of Gaza. I would be very glad to see the moment when Israeli soldiers, in the framework of an agreement—not a withdrawal without agreement—will no longer have to move around Greater Gaza, with its 750,000 residents, and suffer casualties as we did during the seven years of intifadah.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, you speak of a political effort. Will the indefinite closure that is part of the war on terrorism, as you announced at the cabinet session yesterday, not harm the effort to attain an agreement with the PLO? Cabinet ministers warned yesterday that it might make 'Arafat refuse to assume responsibility for the territory.

[Rabin] I do not think so. I believe 'Arafat and his followers will opt for the political solution and take charge of the Gaza Strip—with the exclusion of those matters we agreed on in the Cairo agreement and the accompanying map, of course. I believe we have the right to protect ourselves, especially when there is a political opening and the option of reaching an agreement. We did not suspend the discussions following a Palestinian terror act against us; he did, after the Hebron massacre. Therefore, we are not to blame for lost time.

The government must provide for maximum security, and this is not easy. For example, the car bomb that resulted in the deplorable crime in 'Afula was stolen in Tel Aviv and bore an Israeli license plate. Some 10,000 cars with Israeli license plates cross from Judaea and Samaria into the territory of Israel daily. The soldiers and policemen make every effort to check them. Let us not forget that there are dirt roads they can take. A suicide terrorist who is willing to die may succeed here and there. We will do everything possible to prevent this, but there have been five car-bomb attacks by terrorists. We are dealing with terror organizations the likes of which we did not know three years ago. The method of operation of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad and their readiness to commit suicide is reminiscent of Hizballah in Lebanon, which caused us serious damage and many fatalities in the past. Yet we will deal with and overcome this problem in a compound move consisting of a political solution and military activity.

[Raz] Perhaps the best way to deal with those organizations is not by imposing a closure but by stopping the political process because it is causing more Israeli fatalities?

[Rabin] I believe you cannot compare the situation today with that in the past. Stopping the negotiations would be a victory for the enemies of peace, on the Palestinian side primarily, as well as the opposition to peace in Israel. A loathsome murderer who committed the crime in 'Afula should not be rewarded by our stopping the political process.

[Gay] Are we not rewarding those who refuse to condemn it or at least openly stand up to those who are trying to kill the process?

[Rabin] I believe 'Arafat made a grave mistake when he did not condemn the attack; however, his conduct is no yardstick for the Israeli Government. Therefore, I do not believe that stopping the negotiations is the right thing to do. It would be giving a prize to those who kill Israelis and want to kill the peace.

[Gay] We have heard a lot about the need to consider 'Arafat's domestic difficulties, but it seems that support for the agreement among the Israeli people is waning. Demonstrations against it are staged every evening at main crossroads. Does this not worry you?

[Rabin] Allow me first to address the Palestinian side of the issue. The fact is that I suggested imposing a closure because, first of all, we must take every step to provide more security for the 97 percent of Israelis who reside within the boundaries of sovereign Israel, including united Jerusalem. Naturally, we have an obligation to protect the 3 percent of Israeli citizens who live in the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

As for the opposition here, as long it is within the boundaries of the law and is reasonable, it is legitimate in a democratic state. I believe the extreme right has crossed red lines. I do not recall that when the terror attack in which we suffered the most fatalities since the State of Israel was established took place—I am referring to the 1978 attack on the bus on the Coastal Road, between Herzliyya and Tel Aviv—any of us called the government bloody or turned the blood shed there into a tool for political gains. The time has come for the extreme right to stop rejoicing over spilled blood.

[Raz] Let us turn to the other negotiating track: Syria. Has there been any development there? The negotiations are to resume at the end of this month.

[Rabin] The negotiations with Syria will resume, and I believe that, following the new framework we discussed during my meeting with President Clinton in the United States, we may find a way to get the negotiations onto more reasonable tracks than those along which they have been conducted so far in Washington.

[Raz] Is any preparatory work being done? Are there any new tracks?

[Rabin] The problem is that there are no additional tracks at this time. I feel, however, that the shape of the negotiations as we knew them in Washington is no longer appropriate. There, the Syrians demanded that Israel pledge a full withdrawal in return for full peace, which the Syrians have not defined. I will not accept a demand for total withdrawal as a precondition for negotiations. Negotiations should deal with every aspect: the nature of peace; the extent of withdrawal, since Israel had agreed in principle to a withdrawal on the Golan Heights; the linkage between peace and withdrawal; security arrangements; timetables; the normalization steps to be taken at every stage and the duration of the examination of the normalization before we withdraw to the agreed upon line—as is well known, we oppose total withdrawal; and, naturally, the U.S. contribution to fortifying Israel and to supervising the arrangements that will be made with the Syrians in the framework of a peace agreement. These issues will have to be examined in a comprehensive framework and not as the Syrians have been trying to do by saying: First say total withdrawal, and then we will talk. This will not serve as the basis for negotiations with Syria.

[Gay] Another issue on our agenda today: Will you make one last move to prevent Knesset Member Hayim Ramon and his friends from announcing that they will run on a separate list in the Histadrut labor union elections?

[Rabin] I held quite a few discussions with Ramon in which I did my best to convince him not to run on a separate list. I have a lot of regard for Hayim Ramon. He was a very good minister and a loyal partner in the last Knesset elections campaign. I believe he will be making a grave mistake in terms of his cause and his personal career. At the same time, he is a big boy now and can make his own decisions. Naturally, as party leader I believe it is a mistake to quit the party. All past examples show this does not work: Ben-Gurion, Moshe Dayan, Shim'on Peres, and many others quit MAPAI [Israel Workers Party] in 1965, certain they could score an impressive achievement. They won 10 Knesset seats and returned home four years later. It would be a shame to try this again.

[Gay] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Says Settlements To Remain

TA1104052794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says getting out of the Gaza Strip will bring only good things to Israel. Addressing a dinner of the Israel Bonds in Tel Aviv last night, the prime minister added that the Gaza settlement of Netzarim, despite the fact that only 27 families live there, will remain in place, as will all other settlements in the territories. This government, declared the prime minister, will continue the peace process even if it only has a majority of one.

[Begin Rabin recording] We achieved in the agreement with the PLO what we could not achieve with anyone: that the unity of Jerusalem will not be under question for the interim period; that all the settlements will remain in place. Believe me, in Greater Gaza, in the Gaza Strip, there are three-quarters of a million Palestinians and less than 5,000 Israelis. Netzarim—27 families in the outskirts of Greater Gaza of a quarter of a million people.

We'll continue. The present Government of Israel, regardless to domestic opposition, we are a democracy, and as long as we have got a majority in our elected legislative body, we will continue. Even if I have got a majority of one, I am determined to go on. [end recording]

Cabinet Defers Decision on Duration of Closure

TA1004113994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The cabinet is getting ready for a prolonged closure of the territories. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the cabinet today decided to keep the closure in effect until after Independence Day and to discuss its duration and magnitude in its meeting next week.

The cabinet also consented to import 18,000 foreign workers: 15,000 in construction and 3,000 in agriculture. They will begin working within three to five weeks and will be issued six-month work permits. It was also decided to subsidize the employment of 4,000 foreign workers in agriculture, including 2,000 who are already working in this sector.

The cabinet decided to set up a team to examine the plan to employ high school students and soldiers in agriculture until the foreign workers arrive. The prime minister said in the meeting that we should rid ourselves of our dependence on laborers from the territories, a dependence which forces us to decisions which endanger the security of the citizens.

Ministers Hint Closure Intended To Pressure 'Arafat

TA1104051994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rabin told the cabinet that the closure of the territories, ordered after last week's wave of terror attacks, will continue until further notice. The cabinet decided to bring in about 18,000 foreign workers to replace Palestinian laborers in Israel and to subsidize 4,000 Israeli workers in agriculture. Jack Katzenell gave us this report:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] All the cabinet ministers agree that the territories will be closed off at least until after Independence Day, and it takes place on Thursday [14 April]. It is on what happens after then that they disagree. Minister of Culture and Communications Shulamit Aloni said the acts of a few terrorists do not entitle the government to punish nearly 2 million Palestinians. [passage omitted]

However, Prime Minister Rabin told the cabinet his long-term aim is to reduce Israel's dependence on Palestinian workers not only until the agreement with the PLO is implemented but until it has proven itself—in other words, until the number of Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israelis has dropped in the wake of the establishment of Palestinian autonomy. Economic Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit later told reporters this could mean weeks or even years. Minister of Agriculture Ya'aqov Tzur said: I believe the closure is for a long time; Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said: I believe there is an intention to leave it as it is, even after the implementation of the agreement.

A number of ministers hinted that the closure would be used as a means of pressure against Yasir 'Arafat to get him to speed up the negotiations. This view was expressed both by hawks like Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer and doves like Labor and Welfare Minister Ora Namir.

[Namir] I do believe that it will bring the PLO to come as soon as possible to Gaza and to Jericho and to take command of the security of the people that are living there. In Israel, the key to the process of peace is security.

[Katzenell] And Prime Minister Rabin told the cabinet that the closure will be accompanied by a diplomatic drive to complete the negotiations as soon as possible. [end recording]

PLO's Call for Permanent Status Talks Rejected

TA0904143194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] PLO official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has called for immediate negotiations on the permanent status of the territories instead of continuing the talks on Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In an interview with correspondents in Tunis, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the agreement between the PLO and Israel was dying and the diplomatic process was reaching a dead end.

In reaction, political sources in Jerusalem said that it was the Israeli Government's policy to honor agreements. Therefore, there was no point in discussing the next stage of the negotiations between the PLO and Israel before the talks on Gaza-Jericho First were completed.

Peres: No Talks on Permanent Status of Territories

TA0904192494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by correspondent Hezi Makhlev on 9 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Makhlev] This evening, the foreign minister commented on PLO official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's demand to immediately start negotiations over the permanent status of the territories instead of holding talks over autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

[Peres] I do not accept his view. There is an agreement that must be implemented. This is what we will do. Anyone attempting to achieve permanent peace today might only create a permanent dispute by bringing up unresolvable issues.

[Makhlev] Sir, PLO circles are demanding immediate negotiations over the permanent status in the territories instead of holding talks on autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

[Peres] I do not know what you mean by circles. We are conducting negotiations with the PLO leadership and with Mr. 'Arafat. We are holding talks with him and have not heard any such demands at the negotiating table.

[Makhlev] Do you plan to meet Mr. 'Arafat after Independence Day in order to clarify these issues?

[Peres] If necessary, I will meet with him, but nothing has been scheduled yet.

[Makhlev] Meretz is demanding to limit the closure and to be generous in issuing work permits. What is your reaction to this?

[Peres] My response is that the place to discuss this issue is within the framework of the cabinet.

[Makhlev] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, some of your colleagues in Meretz are requesting to ease the closure and to be more generous in issuing work permits to laborers from the territories.

[Sarid] First of all, I would like to say that I support the closure; however, I do not think that the government should tie its hands now by making definitive decisions on the duration of the closure. We know that closures have their limitations which we have to take into account. There are humanitarian needs of the first degree, and there is no need to make far-reaching decisions only to later backtrack from them. Therefore, the government should tomorrow evaluate the closure, which I support, and examine its duration and limitations.

Observers' Advance Team Meets With Hebron Mayor

TA1104070294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] This morning, 10 representatives of the Danish, Norwegian, and Italian observers met with Hebron Mayor Mustafa al- Natshah in the city. At the end of the meeting, the mayor said he hopes the observers will be able to separate the Arab residents of Hebron and the settlers.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Khalid 'Amayirah, the chief Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman, attacked the presence of the observers in the city and said this is merely a public relations stunt. He warned that if the residents of Hebron do not feel a change in their security, the force might be in danger.

The head of the Norwegian delegation said that his men were received warmly in Hebron and that the mayor briefed him on the city's problems. He expressed the hope that the observers force will be able to start working soon.

Obervers Comment on Mandate

NC1104070294 Paris AFP in English 0633 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Hebron, Occupied West Bank, April 11 (AFP)—An advance party of foreign observers moved into Hebron on Monday [11 April] to protect Palestinians as Israel lifted the closure on the West Bank town centre, an AFP correspondent reported.

But party leaders said the full deployment of 160 lightly-armed observers as agreed by Israel and the PLO following the February 25 mosque massacre would not take place before next week.

"This mandate is to return to normalcy and this opening is part of it," said Knud Volveg, head of the Norwegian delegation.

"We are very happy that the Israelis responded positively to the requests we made for opening the city centre," he told reporters.

But the Tomb of the Patriarchs where a Jewish settler gunned down 30 Palestinians was still closed off as it has been since the slaughter.

Volveg said the team had been given a "cordial reception ... [ellipsis as received] managed to get acquainted and establish contact."

The reconnaissance party included seven Norwegians, five Danes and four Italians, escorted by Israeli police and military officials and a representative of the foreign ministry.

Five Norwegians, three Danes and three Italians were to stay behind and set up in the town after meeting Palestinian officials.

"We are here today on a courtesy visit," said Kjell Johansen, the head of the Temporary International Presence and former head of the Norwegian contingent with UN forces in Sarajevo.

"We are examining the options for accommodation," the Norwegian policeman said.

"I don't expect the deployment for this week," he admitted. "We have to get confirmation from the Norwegian government for the actual agreement to deploy," he said.

"They (Norwegian, Danish and Italian governments) have agreed to an advanced team but we need agreement for the deployment."

The team met Hebron mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, who told reporters: "Today the (military) governor of Hebron has opened the city.

"This is a good sign. We consider it a gift from the delegation."

"We shall make arrangements on our side to facilitate their job," he said.

A preparatory group had reconnoitered the terrain from an Israeli army helicopter last week and met officials in Israel and PLO leaders in Cairo.

Under an agreement signed in Cairo on March 31 by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Denmark will provide 90 members to the observation team, and Norway and Italy 35 each.

The group will be permitted to carry handguns for self-defense, and will be known as a Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH).

Their prime function will be to bring "a sense of security to the Palestinians of Hebron" after the mosque killings.

They will be barred from police work and will be restricted to monitoring events in Hebron.

Meetings Between Hamas, IDF Officers Disclosed

TA1004111094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Apr 94 p 10

[Report by David Regev]

[Text] While Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] threatens to pursue its attacks against Israel to avenge the Hebron massacre, some of its senior members in the Gaza Strip have been maintaining a secret channel of communications with senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers.

Over the weekend, IDF sources disclosed that the meetings were being held as part of the talks officers have been holding with all factions in the Gaza Strip, including the rejectionist organizations, in a bid to ascertain the local mood on the eve of the IDF's pullout.

One such meeting was held last Friday between 45-year-old Ahmad Bakr, a prominent Hamas member, and Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of IDF troops in the Gaza Strip. The meeting took place a few hours before the murderous attack in 'Afula. Bakr, a resident of Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, is the director of the Islamic Society in the Gaza Strip, a Hamas ideologue, and was one of the 400-odd men deported to Lebanon.

Bakr told Brig. Gen. Almog that although Hamas opposes the autonomy it will not attack it and may even cooperate with its elected representatives. Bakr added that Hamas does not plan to attack the Palestinian policemen. "They are our brothers and cousins, and we will not hurt them," he said.

[A report by Fayiz 'Abbas on page 11 of the same paper notes that on 9 April the family of Fadiya Shalbi, an Israeli Arab woman from the village of Iksal who was killed in the 'Afula attack, got a phone call. On the line was a man, who said: "I am speaking from Hamas headquarters in the Gaza Strip. I would like to express my sorrow and condolences and to apologize to you." When asked to identify himself, the man hung up.]

Army Preparing for Hamas Threat To Launch Missiles

TA1004051794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] A senior military source is quoted by the ITIM news agency as confirming that the Israeli Army is preparing for the possibility that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization will follow through on its threat to launch missile attacks against Israeli targets. Hamas has threatened that among the attacks it intends to carry out in advance of Independence Day will be missile launchings against targets that include Israeli settlements in the territories. The military source told ITIM that there is little doubt that Hamas has the ability to use missiles, primarily LAW antitank missiles that are easy to carry and that are widely used by the Israeli Army.

Hamas Renews Threat To Kill Jewish Settlers

NC1104140194 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, April 11 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] Monday [11 April] renewed a threat to murder Jewish settlers and said a suicide attack that left seven Israelis dead and 45 wounded was only a beginning.

A leaflet distributed in Gaza warned that the group's military wing, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, has "decided to hit at settlers so they can get a taste of death and leave our land."

"The 'Afula operation is only a beginning," it said.

A Hamas suicide bomber last Wednesday blew up a bus in 'Afula.

A day after the bombing, Hamas threatened to fire rockets at Israeli homes and said the attack was the first of five to come on Israeli targets.

Meanwhile, the body of a Palestinian man with a bullet hole in his head was dumped in the street in Gaza City. Palestinian sources said he had been executed by Hamas for collaborating with Israeli authorities.

IDF Officers Train for Patrols With Palestinians

TA1104054294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Thirty IDF [Israel Defense Forces] infantry and tank officers have begun a course preparing them for joint patrols with the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip. According to Qol Yisra'el's military correspondent, the course centers on the jeep patrols which will take place: one vehicle with IDF soldiers, the other with Palestinian police.

The head of IDF's Southern Command, Major General Matan Vilna'i, has called for improved coordination with the Palestinians and their future police force in the Strip. He was interview by Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] [Vilna'i] The coordination now is very important, but one has to remember that they have to coordinate with us and not we are going to coordinate with them. I believe that it's good coordination with them. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] How long is it going to take you, from the time the agreement is signed, to actually complete the withdrawal? What do you estimate?

[Vilna'i] It depends on the treaty, on the exact treaty that we are going to sign with them. After we see the exact treaty, we'll decide what is the time that we need to withdraw.

[Ben-'Ami] Can you do it within a matter of hours?

[Vilna'i] We can do it from hours to several years. No problem. [end recording]

IDF Resumes Full Operation in Gaza Refugee Camps

TA1004111394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Apr 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Aluf Ben, and Shlomo Dror]

[Excerpt] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip have in the last few days resumed full operation, mainly in the refugee camps and the big cities. The undercover units have also stepped up their operations in the wake of new instructions issued by senior Southern Command officers.

The Southern Command expects an increase in the attempts to perpetrate terror attacks due to the population's frustration as a result of the general closure of the territories and its close enforcement in the Gaza Strip. Consequently, it decided to step up the IDF's operations in the refugee camps and in the big cities.

Last Friday, IDF troops operated in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp, arresting a Fatah wanted man suspected of murdering a 70-year-old resident of Kefar Sava in February. [passage omitted]

[A report by Arye Kiesel and Shim'on Schiffer in Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 10 April on pages 1 and 20 adds: "A considerable part of the IDF's regular combat forces is currently deployed in the territories to assure a maximum enforcement of the closure.

["The training program of many units has been halted to enable their transfer to the territories. The troops meticulously monitor every road, passage, and footpath leading from the territories into Israel."]

Five IDF Soldiers Lightly Wounded in Gaza

TA0604182794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Five IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were lightly injured in Gaza this evening by a hand grenade thrown at a jeep in which they were riding. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that the five were on patrol on al-Nasir Street in Gaza. The IDF is conducting searches for the perpetrators.

Soldiers Kill Arab Youth, Wound Others

TA0704185394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] A 16-year-old was killed by soldiers' gunfire in the village of Bal'a in Samaria tonight. He was shot while hurling stones at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. A 17-year-old youth sustained moderate injuries when soldiers fired at stone throwers in the village of Qabatiyah. A 35-year-old woman was slightly wounded in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp when a stun grenade exploded near her in the course of riots. IDF soldiers dispersed the rioters with stun grenades and rubber bullets.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that two Israeli civilians were slightly wounded from glass splinters when their cars were pelted with stones at the Yaqir Junction and in Ma'ale Levona tonight.

Soldiers Kill Ax-Wielding 'Terrorist' at Checkpoint

TA0904143394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers killed a terrorist at the Erez checkpoint a short while ago after he attacked them with an ax. None of the soldiers were hurt. This was reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

This afternoon, an Israeli woman was injured near Bayt Jala when stones were hurled at her car.

Arab Stabs Jewish Woman in East Jerusalem

TA0904185494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Here is a report just in. A Jewish woman was stabbed a short while ago while strolling on the promenade in East Jerusalem's Armon Hanetziv neighborhood. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov was told that the assailant, who fled, was an Arab. A Magen David Adom ambulance evacuated the young woman, who was wounded in the stomach, to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

Ninth Settler Jailed Under Administrative Detention

TA1004052394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The police detained Avraham Shaher in Qiryat Arba' last night. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Shaher was detained for three months under an administrative order issued by the regional commander. He joins the eight administrative detainees also incarcerated in Hasharon jail.

Kakh's Marzel Receives 3-Month Sentence for Rioting

TA1104084394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Today the Jerusalem District Court sentenced Barukh Marzel to three months in prison, after convicting him of rioting near the Prime Minister's Office three years ago. The judge determined that Marzel will serve his term immediately after he completes his current term in detention. The judge pointed out that over the past 14 years, Marzel was convicted 10 times on similar charges. Ever since he became an adult, this person has been violating the law, and his acts indicate that he has no regard for the authority of the law and the establishments of the state. His criminal record, the judge said, calls for severe punishment.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that upon coming out of the courthouse, Marzel claimed that he is being discriminated against.

Court Ruling Prompts Police Commissioner To Resign

TA0904164494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Police Commissioner Rafi Peled has reportedly decided to resign. According to Qol Yisra'el's police reporter, in the wake of Thursday's [7 April] decision by the High Court of Justice for Peled to be disciplined after accepting hotel and party discounts, the commissioner has informed Police Minister Moshe Shahal that he will resign.

Unarmed Infiltrators Caught Near Jordanian Border

TA0804045394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Early this morning, security forces caught four people who infiltrated from Jordan into Israeli territory near the Hammat Gader area. The four were unarmed, and they may be Iraqi citizens. Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports that large IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces are searching the area and have declared it a closed military zone. The road from Ma'agan Junction to Hammat Gader and Mevo Hama has been closed to traffic.

Four Iraqis Seek Asylum

NC0804085694 Paris AFP in English 0704 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Jerusalem, 8 April (AFP)—Four Iraqis crossed the border from Jordan into northern Israel on Friday [8 April], sparking a major security alert, military officials said.

The Iraqis, who were unarmed, gave themselves up and asked for political asylum.

However when army spotters sighted the men just south of the Sea of Galilee the alert was sounded fearing an armed infiltration was underway.

Half a dozen cases of Iraqis, some army deserters, reaching the Israeli border with Jordan have been reported in the last two years. All have requested political asylum or to be allowed to travel on to a third country.

Study Completed on Border Demarcation With Jordan

TA0604100594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Apr 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Israel has completed a comprehensive study on the demarcation of the Israeli-Jordanian border to be used as a basis in the negotiations with Jordan. The document analyzes the problems with the demarcation of the border, which runs from Hammat Gader in the north to Elat in the south, through the Jordan and al-Yarmukh Rivers and the 'Arava. The Israeli-Jordanian border has never been demarcated by mutual consent, either on maps on in the field. Its current configuration is based on general descriptions dating back to the time of the British mandate. The joint agenda of the talks stipulates that the border will be demarcated taking these descriptions into consideration.

The study depicts numerous problems involved in the demarcation of the border (which runs through the center of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea) due to changes in the river flow and the lake's size, and raises questions such as determining the sovereignty over small islands in the Jordan River.

Jordan has various claims from Israel concerning the borders, first and foremost, to get back areas in the 'Arava occupied by Israel after the Six-Day War. Jordan has been pressuring Israel to discuss the demarcation of the border, posing it as a condition for progress in the peace talks. Jordan has not yet submitted a detailed account of its demands in the framework of the Washington talks.

A debate about joint development projects in the 'Arava is scheduled to be held in the next meeting of the joint Israeli- Jordanian-U.S. economic committee. Although Israel and Jordan have been discussing joint projects, the Jordanians demand to discuss the demarcation of the border first, because those projects are slated for the border area.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has instructed the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan not to discuss the border issue before the Jordanians agree to engage in serious discussions on the formulation of a peace treaty between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Beilin on Visit to Oman, Participation Parameters

TA0604061894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Karmit Gay; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Gay] Your trip to Oman seems less certain than before, since the hosts of the multilateral conference on water asked the Israelis to postpone their arrival.

[Beilin] It is true, such a request was presented. There had been a tendency, even a decision to send the preliminary group on 3 April, but they asked to put it off to 10 April. We do not know yet whether their demand reflects a desire to change the parameters of our participation. We will only know it when the preliminary delegation arrives there. If it transpires that they want to change the parameters—namely, to limit our participation or deny media attendance, we will insist that the Oman encounter be identical to the other multilateral forums in every sense. We are definitely not going to agree to any change of the talks' parameters. [passage omitted]

Calls Visit 'Leap Forward' on Boycott

TA1104172194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who will be departing for Oman this weekend, says that this visit is a big leap forward as far as the Arab boycott is concerned. According to him, Oman is hosting the multilateral talks on water affairs because it wants to solve its water problems, and Israel can offer it know-how and joint research projects. Beilin was interviewed by the Arabic-language weekly PANORAMA, and his remarks were reported by our correspondent Qaysar Kabaha.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 11 April reports that "the four-members Israeli preparatory team returned from Oman this afternoon."]

Minister Harish Travels To Morocco for GATT Talks

TA1004160594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish left for Morocco this afternoon to represent Israel in the final round of GATT talks. This agreement is supposed to lift trade restrictions and expand it by $300 billion per year. Israel can also benefit from this agreement. The conference will open in Marrakech tomorrow. It will be attended by representatives of 114 countries. Minister Harish told our correspondent Arye Schorr he hopes to use the conference for holding contacts with representatives of Arab countries that do not have relations with Israel.

YSP Official Comments on Yemeni Situation, Visit

JN1004171694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Italicized passages recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], accompanied by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of foreign relations, arrived in Amman today on a two-day visit to Jordan during which they will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials. The visit comes within the framework of their tour of the region.

Upon arrival at Amman Civil Airport, Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, spoke to reporters about his visit Jordan. He said:

[Muhammad] *First, we carry the greetings of the Yemeni people and of their political leadership and parties to His Majesty King Husayn and the fraternal Jordanian people. We also carry our great appreciation for the efforts exerted by our Jordanian brothers and by His Majesty King Husayn, including both the efforts that preceded the signing of the accord document and the efforts that followed, represented by the great role played by fraternal Jordan within the military committee, as well as its political efforts aimed at solving the existing political crisis.*

Our current tour comes within the framework of efforts to inform our brothers in Jordan and the Arab brothers of the nature of the present situation. It also comes within the framework of a request for help, especially from fraternal Jordan, to overcome problems and certain difficulties we are facing. We specifically ask fraternal Jordan to continue this role because, in our view, it is a role that does not concern the Yemenis alone, but concerns all Arabs. It is an honorable pan-Arab role.

We reiterate our thanks to fraternal Jordan, to His Majesty King Husayn, and to the Jordanian Government.

[Announcer] On Yemeni efforts to implement the Yemeni accord document, Salim Salih Muhammad said:

[Muhammad] *The dialogue is still going on. What is important to us now is to obstruct the military course—a course that is frightening to us—and to reinforce the other course—the course of dialogue—in order to begin implementing this document that sets the practical and sound solutions to correct the Yemeni situation. Moreover, it is now important to us to build the new Yemen, which secures rights and duties for all its people.*

[Announcer] On the presence of other Arab mediation efforts. He said:

[Muhammad] *We do not view mediation efforts as separate efforts but as concentrated Arab efforts. Therefore, we welcome all our Arab brothers' support for the ongoing efforts inside Yemen. At the same time, we particularly welcome the Arab efforts represented by the roles played by the two fraternal countries, Jordan and Oman.*

[Announcer] On the practical steps that should be taken in order to overcome the crisis in Yemen, Salim Salih Muhammad said:

[Muhammad] *At the Amman meeting held in this good land during the holy month of Ramadan, certain issues were defined in terms of beginning to implement the provisions of the accord document, starting with the security issue, which worries the Yemenis and really needs immediate implementation in order to bring things back to normal in Yemen. Afterward, we will get into the priorities according to a fixed timetable. This is the normal course in order to get the crisis and Yemen out of the dark tunnel.*

Yemeni Education Minister al-Qirbi Visits

Arrives With Letter for al-Majali

JN0804163094 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Yemeni Minister of Education Dr. Abu-Bakr al-Qirbi has arrived in Amman at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Jordan. During its three-day stay, the delegation will discuss with Jordanian officials cooperation in all areas. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, the Yemeni minister said that he was carrying a message to Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali from the Yemeni prime minister. He said the letter related to fields of cooperation between the two countries, as well as latest political developments

Meets With Al-Majali

JN0904123694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received Yemeni Education Minister Dr. Abu-Bakr al-Qirbi at his office in the Prime Ministry today.

Dr. Qirbi conveyed a message to the prime minister from the Yemeni prime minister dealing with fields of bilateral cooperation and the latest developments in Yemen concerning the accord document, which was signed recently in Amman.

Dr. al-Majali expressed the government's readiness to provide all state capabilities and expertise in the field of educational development on the level of universities and the Ministry of Education to meet Yemeni educational and training requirements, and to exchange expertise in a demonstration of the two countries' distinguished bilateral relations and the great importance His Majesty King Husayn attaches to brotherly cooperation with Arab countries.

Dr. al-Qirbi hailed the great efforts made by Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, to help Yemen resolve its political crisis, and said he hoped that his majesty will continue his efforts to overcome the political difficulties in Yemen.

The meeting was attended by Education Minister Dr. Khalid al- 'Umari.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1104104594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Yemeni Minister of Education Dr. Abu-Bakr al-Qirbi has left Amman, concluding a four-day visit to Jordan. Mr. al-Qirbi held talks during his stay with Premier al-Majali and Education Minister Khalid al-'Umari on bilateral relations and means to boost them.

Paper Defends 'Arafat's Stand on 'Afula Killings

JN1004103894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Policies That Defy Reason"]

[Text) Hardly a day passes by in the occupied Arab territories without many Palestinians falling victim to Israeli atrocities and violations of human rights. The killing of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers or settlers is a daily reality that has become of routine news value to the international media, and even less significance to the international community.

Only a crime of the enormity of the Hebron massacre draws the attention of the big powers in the world to the suffering of the Palestinian people and Israel's disregard for all international norms and human values. This attention fades, though, sooner than the blood of Palestinians dries on the ground.

Such is not the case with violence against Israelis. The killing of any number of Israelis by frustrated Palestinians has all world capitals racing to condemn "Arab acts of terrorism" and offer support for Israel.

The world is serving neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis through such exercises in hypocrisy. Nor is Israel protecting its future and that of the region by failing to address the root causes of violence in the occupied territories.

Israel is responsible for the 'Afula bombing as much as it is responsible for the Hebron massacre. Its policies in the occupied territories provided the settlers with the means for killing the Palestinians as they prayed in the Ibrahimi Mosque. Those same policies left the young Palestinian who carried out the 'Afula suicide attack no choice but to give Israelis a taste of what their government has been allowing to happen to Palestinians for decades.

Israeli politicians condemned the Hebron massacre. So should Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat condemn the 'Afula bombing demands the U.S. and other world powers. The naivety and insensitivity of comparing the two unfortunate events are appalling, even though the killing of innocent people and civilians cannot be condoned by anybody or quarter.

Had the international community been genuinely interested in ending the bloodshed in the occupied territories, however, it would have had taken action to end it long before the 'Afula bombing took place. That it could have done by putting enough pressure on Israel to remove the injustices to which Palestinians are subjected on a daily basis. Instead of removing the settlers, admittedly a main obstacle to the attainment of peace in the region, Israel threw a blanket curfew on the West Bank and Gaza. That deprived Palestinians from even providing for their daily needs. The suffering increased and retaliatory action became an inevitable response.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman thus found himself unable to condemn the 'Afula attack personally. By doing so, he might have only infuriated his people whose members are being killed by Israelis by the hour. Israel, on the other hand, could affoprd to condemn the Hebron massacre because it has within its reach tens of other measures to appease its citizens.

The most the PLO can do in reaction to Israeli atrocities is boycott the peace talks, and that it cannot do for long because of the pressures that Washington and other world powers would put on it.

But Israel does not boycott the talks, winning world praise for not allowing "rejectionists" to abort the peace process. What it does, instead, is put two million Palestinians under siege again by closing the West Bank and Gaza totally. The negative implications of this act for the peace process far exceed those of withdrawing from the negotiation. Yet a few in the world community seem to notice; and Israel gets away with murder.

Thus only Palestinian desperation grows, and the cycle of violence continues unabated. When inclination towards peace becomes the ultimate causalty we can all be sure that the peace process stands to suffer. Just when the Israelis get to realise the folly of their policies is the question that we cannot answer.

Members to Joint Committees With PLO Named

JN1104095294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Apr 94 pp 1, 27

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that from the premise of its belief in action and the formation of joint committees between it and the fraternal Arab countries, Jordan has completed for its part the formation of the joint coordination committees between it and the PLO. The following are the names of the members of these committees:

1. The Jordanian-PLO higher ministerial coordination committee under Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister

and minister of Higher Education, and the following as members: Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Cabinet Affairs and information minister; Dr. Ziyad Fariz, minister of planning; Mahdi al-Farhan, minister of Agriculture; Salamah Hammad, Interior Minister; and Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

2. The Jerusalem Committee is made up of the following: 'Izz al- Din al-Khatib al-Tamimi, his majesty's adviser and Chief Justice; Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi, minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs; and ambassador 'Awn al-Khasawinah, adviser to the crown prince.

3. The economic committee comprises the following: Dr. Safwan Tuqan, secretary general of the Planning Ministry; Dr. Michel Martu, Jordanian Central Bank deputy governor; Musa al-Jaghbir, Customs Department assistant director general, and Safwan al-Batayinah, director of the prime ministry's economic department.

The committee on refugees and the displaced is made up of: Marwan Dudin; Khalil Khuraysat, Interior Ministry secretary general; Ambassador Nayif al-Hadid, Foreign Ministry secretary general; and Muhammad Shahinkari, from the Foreign Ministry.

The committee on security and borders comprises Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan, his majesty's adviser on scientific affairs; Major General Tahsin Shurdum, deputy chief of staff; and Major General Muhammad al-Bassul, Public Security Department assistant director.

AL-DUSTUR has also learned that that the Palestinian side, as yet, has not communicated to Jordan the names of the Palestinian members on these committees.

Papal Nuncio Announces Pope Postpones Visit

NC1104111194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Speculation among political, spiritual, and media circles that the pope's visit to Lebanon would be postponed was confirmed today when two statements were issued, one by the Vatican and the other at a news conference held by Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente in the Vatican Embassy in Harisa at noon today. Puente, who returned to Beirut yesterday following a brief visit to the Vatican, officially announced that Pope John Paul II's visit to Lebanon has been postponed until a date to be decided, when conditions are more suited to such a visit producing the expected results. [passage omitted]

In the first reaction to the postponement of the visit, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, received a message from Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente informing him of the postponement of the pope's visit to Lebanon. His eminence expressed his regret over the postponement of the visit, which had been awaited by Lebanon and the Lebanese in view of the pope's position in the hearts of all the Lebanese. His eminence added: We hope the circumstances will become suitable for the pope to make his visit.

Lebanese Forces Implicated in Plot To Kill President

NC1004062294 London MBC Television in Arabic 2320 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Military Court investigators in Lebanon have interrogated Lebanese Army Sergeant Sharfan Bulus and two former members of the disbanded Lebanese Forces accused of plotting to kill President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Lebanese judiciary sources say that the Military Court will try Ghassan Tuma, head of the Lebanese Forces' security apparatus, in absentia. Tuma asked Sergeant Bulus, a bomb expert working at the Presidential Palace, about the possibility of planting a bomb, the target of which would be the president, in a flower vase, a car, or a telephone set, according to the same sources.

Roundup of Security Activities, Conflicts in South

Missiles, Arms Seized Near LF Center

NC0204194694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] The Army continues its raids and searches for arms caches and ammunition. This morning it discovered one arms cache in Fatqa and another one in Ghidras that is only around 200 meters from the former headquarters of the Lebanese Forces [LF]. A large quantity of weapons, ammunitions, and war material were confiscated, which filled four trucks and included 640 rifles of various types, 40 antiaircraft missiles, and a military radio transmitter in addition to various types of spares parts, weapons, and ammunition.

Kafra, Yatar Shelled; Lahd Unit Ambushed

NC0604170694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The outskirts of the towns of Kafra and Yatar have been coming under shelling since 1530 today from the occupation center in Jabal Humayyid. A center belonging to the Nepalese contingent in Yatar was hit by machine-gun fire coming from the Lahd agents' post in the occupied strip opposite the town. The Martyr Husayn Nasir Mahdi group of the Islamic Resistance laid an ambush for a Lahdist security convoy on the Bayt Lif road. The strugglers showered the convoy's cars with a hail of fire from machine guns and artillery. Several artillery shells hit the car transporting the security officials. It was burnt out immediately and its occupants were either killed or injured.

Rockets, Shells Hit 'Security Zone'

NC0704031294 Paris AFP in English 2108 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tyre, April 6 (AFP)—Nine people were wounded, most of them civilians, in rocket and artillery attacks on Israel's "security zone" in south Lebanon on Wednesday [6 April], security officials and an Israeli-backed militia said.

The radio of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia [Kafr Killa Voice of the South] said rockets crashed onto the villages of Dibil and 'Ayn Ibil, on the border with Israel, wounding seven civilians and setting fire to several houses.

Earlier, artillery battles between a radical Palestinian faction and the Israeli army left a militiaman and an anti-Israeli fighter wounded, security officials said.

The militiaman was wounded when fighters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine fired at an SLA position in Bayt Lif, in the western sector of the security zone, they said.

The post was attacked by two Sagar shells, six anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons fire.

The Israeli army retaliated, firing back 20 mortar shells and 10 anti-tank shells, wounding one of the attackers who was evacuated from the area, they added.

Three hours later six Katyusha rockets hit an SLA position in Marwahin, 300 metres (330 yards) from the border between Israel and Lebanon, sources in the occupied border strip said.

The Israeli army retaliated by raining 30 mortar and tank shells on five villages just outside the zone known to be strongholds of Iranian-backed Hizballah fighters, police said.

There were no further reports of civilian casualties.

Army Seizes Palestinian Arms

NC0704200394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] For the third consecutive day, the Lebanese Army continued to unload caches of arms and ammunition from some Palestinian factions seized in the Sidon area and took away five truckloads of various types. So far, 17 truckloads have been confiscated. The Lebanese Army will continue to transport the rest of the confiscated materiel.

Justice Nasri Lahhud, the government's commissioner at the Military Court, has indicted 44 Hizballah members who demonstrated in Ba'labakk three weeks ago marking the Jerusalem Day anniversary. The indictment was made according to the provisions of Article 72, regarding weapons, and Article 381, the penalty that stipulates a prison sentence ranging between six months and three years for trafficking unlicensed weapons and resisting Internal Security Forces personnel while on duty.

Israeli Shelling, Overflights, Gunboats

NC0804094894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] The Lebanese Army's deserted barracks in al-Nabatiyah came under an artillery barrage from Israeli positions in Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir at 0945 today. The barrage was accompanied by bursts of heavy machine-gun fire from adjacent hills and valleys. Rounds landed in the vicinity of al-Mansuri from Israeli positions in al-Bayyadah.

Israeli helicopters flew over the area at midnight last night, illuminating the area from al-Mansuri, Majdal Zun, Zibqin, and Kafra, up to Yatar.

An Israeli gunboat cruised the coast of Tyre. Head of the fishermen syndicate in Tyre said that the fishermen are encountering difficulties fishing because Israeli gunboats intercept their fishing boats.

Palestinians Attack SLA

NC0804202194 Paris AFP in English 1914 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, April 8 (AFP)—Two radical Palestinian factions said they attacked a militia patrol in south Lebanon Friday.

The Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine said in a joint statement that they fired on a patrol of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the west of Israel's self-declared security zone.

The statement said the factions blew up an armored vehicle, killing or wounding its crew.

Voice of the South radio said a civilian vehicle had been attacked close to Shqif al-Naml without causing any victims.

Security services confirmed an SLA patrol had come under fire but could not give details of any casualties.

The two factions are opposed to the Middle East peace process and the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation autonomy accord signed in Washington in September.

Iqlim al-Tuffah Shelled; Israeli Overflights

NC0904083094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Jabal al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under artillery shelling this morning. Last night, the enemy fired scores of flares all over the international border and over its positions in Qal'at al-Shaqif, al-Manarah, and Tallat al-'Abbad. Israeli aircraft also flew over the area.

Israeli Gunboat Halts German Ship

NC0904094794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] As part of the Israeli occupation authorities' piracy off the Lebanese coast, this morning an Israeli gunboat intercepted a German-flagged ship carrying used cars to Tyre port. The Israeli pirates searched the ship before allowing it to enter the port.

Another Israeli gunboat carried out naval patrols all along the coast from al-Naqurah to Tyre.

Israelis Shell Areas

NC0904133694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1306 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Just in from the editor's desk: At 1550 today, the Israeli occupation forces bombarded the villages of Kafr Tibnit, Arnun, and the vicinity of 'Ali al-Tahir wood from their position in al-Dabshah with 112-mm rounds. The bombardment was accompanied by heavy machine-gun fire directed at the 'Ali al-Tahir wood and the aforesaid villages. The security sources have spotted Israeli tank movements in the al-Dabshah area.

'Terrorists' Fire at SLA, IDF Positions

TA0904144294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Terrorists directed mortar fire at SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] positions in the eastern sector of the security zone. There were no casualties or damage.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the SLA and IDF returned fire at terrorist targets and at the sources of the mortar fire. The area is now quiet.

Shells Kill 3 'Resistance Fighters'

NC0904170394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1542 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Just in from the editor's desk: According to a REUTER report a short while ago, three resistance

fighters were killed and three others were injured when Israeli forces this afternoon bombarded the vicinity of Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir, which is occupied by Israeli forces. REUTER also reported that Israeli helicopters flew several sorties over Kafr Tibnit and released dozens of thermal balloons.

The Israeli forces heated up the security situation in the south this afternoon. At 1550, Israeli forces began bombarding al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, the outskirts of the Lebanese army's deserted barracks in al-Nabatiyah, the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit, Arnun, the 'Ali al-Tahir wood, and al-Dabshah. The shelling was followed by intensive machine-gun fire from Israeli positions. Hostile tank movement was spotted in al-Dabshah. After 1630, the shelling reached the outskirts of the Ghandur Palace and Tallat al-Mazra'ah in the al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa area. The shelling was accompanied by 12.7-mm machine-gun fire from the Israeli positions in the 'Ali al- Tahir hills and al-Dabshah.

SLA Kills 3, Wounds 3 PFLP Members

NC1004072094 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that a terrorist cell opened fire on an Israeli army post in 'Ali al-Tahir area yesterday afternoon. Immediately afterward, the Israeli army carried out a wide-scale combing operation in which helicopters and tanks took part.

Meanwhile, South Lebanese Army personnel [SLA] manning a tank positioned in Kafr Rumman discovered the cell as it was entering a red stone villa in the town. The SLA soldiers shelled the cell, killing three elements from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and wounding three others.

SLA Shells 'Terrorist' Cell

NC1004102194 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] reconnaissance unit spotted a terrorist cell trying to infiltrate near the Sujud area this morning. SLA artillery shelled the cell. The terrorists' losses are not known yet.

Israeli Planes, Copters Overfly South

NC1104074494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas last night.

Two Israeli helicopters earlier overflew the Jabal 'Ali Tahir hills overlooking al-Nabatiyah.

Israels Wound 2; More Air Sorties

NC1104112294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Qabrikha came under heavy machine-gun fire from the Israeli occupation forces' positions this morning. Two citizens were injured in the attack.

Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over the south at low altitude, especially over the Iqlim al-Tuffah area. The first sortie was carried out at 0900 and the second at 1030, when the planes dropped thermal balloons but were confronted with antiaircraft fire.

Yemeni Presidential Council Delegation Visits

Requests Help To End Crisis

NC0804195294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus, 8 Apr (MENA)—Yemeni Presidential Council Member Salim Salih Muhammad has said that he requested Syrian participation in the military committee or in any political activity to resolve Yemen's political crisis.

The Yemeni official was speaking to a MENA correspondent in Damascus after his meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam this evening.

He said Syrian officials are now studying the Yemeni request.

Muhammad described his meeting with the Syrian vice president, which was attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', as positive.

The Yemeni official is visiting Syria as part of an Arab tour.

Meets With Khaddam

JN0804195994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of foreign relations, at 1800 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Yemeni Ambassador in Damascus Muhammad 'Abduh Shutfah attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with the situation in Yemen. The vice president indicated Syria's eagerness to maintain Yemeni unity and stressed the need to resolve the Yemeni crisis through brotherly dialogue that averts the dangers of bloody conflicts.

Meets With al-Asad

JN1004125394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]; and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau, at 1300 today.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Rashid Akhtarini and Yemeni Ambassador in Damascus Muhammad 'Abduh Shatfah.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1004164294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau, at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs, and Muhammad 'Abduh Shatfah, Yemeni Ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with the Yemeni situation and its complications. The president stressed the pan-Arab importance of safeguarding Yemen's unity and the need to resolve the existing differences and complications through dialogue.

Salim Salih Muhammad and the accompanying delegation left Damascus this afternoon following a three-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Muhammad 'Abduh Shatfah, the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus; and the Yemeni Embassy staff.

Muhammad made a statement to a SANA [Syrian Arab News Agency] correspondent, noting: Today, we had the honor of meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. We discussed the current situation in Yemen and the efforts being made to circumvent the existing crisis and safeguard Yemen's unity.

He lauded Syria's pan-Arab positions on Arab issues under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as Syria's pioneering role in supporting the unity of Arab ranks and achieving Arab solidarity. He said: We sensed from his excellency a great understanding of what is taking place in Yemen, and his excellency stressed Syria's interest in, and constant care for, Yemen's unity.

Austrian President Klestil, Delegation Visit

Klestil Meets With al-Asad

JN0904125394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Austrian President Thomas Klestil arrived in Damascus at 1200 today on an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at Damascus International Airport. Also present were Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Austria's Ambassador in Damascus Robert Karas. [passage omitted on reception ceremony]

After a short rest at the airport's VIP lounge, President Hafiz al-Asad and his guest left in an official motorcade for Tishrin Palace, the guest president's place of residence.

President Klestil is accompanied by a delegation including Alois Mock, the foreign minister, and (Erik Fetman), deputy minister of public economy and transport.

President Hafiz al-Asad and President Klestil held a meeting at Tishrin Palace. The meeting was attended on the Austrian side by members of the accompanying delegation and on the Syrian side by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Foreign Minister Mock, al-Shar' Meet

JN0904180494 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] A session of talks between the Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Austrian side, led by Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, was held at the Foreign Ministry building this evening. Attending on the Syrian side were Hani Habib, head of the Economic Desk, and Muwaffaq Nassar, head of the West Europe Desk. Attending on the Austrian side were (Alexander Kristiani), head of the Middle East Desk at the Austrian Foreign Ministry, and Robert Karas, Austria's ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with the international situation, the situation in the region, developments in the peace process, bilateral relations, and means to devealop them in various fields.

Al-Asad, Klestil Discuss Peace Process

JN0904204294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad aand Austrian President Thomas Klestil held a meeting at Tishrin Palace following the arrival of the Austrian president in Damascus this afternoon.

The meeting was attended on the Austrian side by the members of the accompanying delegation and on the Syrian side by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The two presidents resumed talks at 1845 this evening at the People's Palace.

The talks addressed a host of international and regional issues, the Middle East peace process, and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, Klestil Resume Talks

JN1004121594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Austrian President Thomas Klestil resumed talks at a meeting held at the People's Palace at 1030 today. Later, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock joined the meeting.

Further on al-Asad's, Klestil Talks

JN1004163194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Austrian President Thomas Klestil resumed talks in a meeting held at the People's Palace at 1030 today. Later, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock joined the meeting.

Talks dealt with international issues, the Middle East situation and developments, and issues pertaining to the regional peace process. The two sides also discussed bilateral issues.

Both presidents expressed satisfaction with bilateral relations. President Klestil extended an invitation to President al-Asad to visit Austria. President al-Asad thankfully accepted the invitation and promised to respond to it at an appropriate time.

Economic Talks Held

JN1004170294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] A meeting between a Syrian economic delegation led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, [minister of state for planning affairs], and an Austrian economic delegation led by Dr. (Erich Betman), assistant minister for economic affairs at the Ministry of Public Economy and Transport, was held at the State Planning Commission this morning.

Talks focused on ways to promote and enhance bilateral economic, trade, and technical relations by benefiting from the large available capabilities. The two sides stressed the importance of establishing joint firms in fields of common interest, as well as benefiting from Austrian experience by training Syrian cadres and promoting bilateral trade exchanges.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the concerned ministries, establishments, and chambers of commerce, as well as Syrian and Austrian businessmen.

Klestil Receives Khaddam

JN1004185494 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] At 1900 today, Austrian President Thomas Klestil received at his residence Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Talks dealt with the past phases of the peace process, the international situation, and bilateral relations.

Klestil 'Disappointed' With al-Asad Attitude

AU1104151994 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 11 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Gerhard Bitzan: "Klestil Disappointed With Syria's Middle East Position]

[Excerpts] The Austrian blue helmets on the Golan Heights and Syria's role in the Middle East process: These topics dominated President Thomas Klestil's state visit to Damascus during the weekend.

After his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Klestil indicated that he was disappointed with his position on the peace process. "While I was optimistic after my last visit to Cairo and the talks there with Mubarak, 'Arafat, and Peres, this has since changed." Al-Asad is a realist and he does not expect a breakthrough in Israel's peace negotiations with the PLO, he said.

The return of the Golan Heights is indispensable for Syria; at the same time, Damascus strictly opposes secret negotiations with Israel and distrusts its desire for peace, Klestil reported. He also quoted the Syrians' wish that Austria continue the tradition of Kreisky and Waldheim and commit itself more in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Mock, who accompanied the president, stressed that Austria still plays an important role for the region: For example, Vienna was asked in connection with the secret negotiations between the PLO and Israel, but finally Oslo was chosen as the place for the talks. "Our newspapers would immediately have reported on it," Klestil said with a smile.

Al-Asad paid tribute to the role of the Austrian blue helmets. Should an agreement be achieved between Israel and Syria after all, Austria could provide additional troops to monitor a demilitarized zone, Klestil suggested. The Austrians are experienced in the region, so he can also envisage that the government in Vienna would agree to it, he said.

On Sunday Klestil was able to satisfy himself of the present situation on Golan. [passage omitted]

About 460 Austrian blue helmets, who received the visitor enthusiastically, are currently stationed in Syria. [passage omitted]

Despite all the benevolence that was shown to Austria in Damascus, economic relations are not developing as desired. There are several projects, above all in the sectors of energy and medicine, but many have not been concluded because of unclear financial questions. Experts in tourism were also part of the small economic delegation as there is increasing demand for Syria as a tourist destination, but the infrastructure is not yet developed well.

Today, Monday, the president will travel to Jordan for his next state visit. Foreign Minister Mock returned to Vienna on Sunday. [passage omitted]

Radio Warns No Peace Without Full Israeli Withdrawal

JN0804140794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In the wake of the Palestinian resistance martyrdom operation in 'Afula, where eight Israelis were killed and scores of others were wounded, Israel clamped a military siege on Arab citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It raised a premeditated hue and cry over the 'Afula operation in order to cover up two serious crimes it recently committed: The holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the subsequent Israeli Army killings, and the Zionist special forces' execution of six Palestinians in the Jabaliya camp. The latter was described by world circles at the time as the most serious violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. Israel also imposed a military siege on our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the pretext of providing security to its Jewish inhabitants.

Security, as all know, cannot be provided under occupation. If Israel was really concerned about security, it would have accepted the Security Council resolutions governing the peace process and it would have negotiated on that basis in a way that leads to the withdrawal of its forces and settlers from occupied Arab territory and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state where people can live a free and honorable life. But Israel does not want to withdraw from the occupied territories. The flimsy security pretext it uses to confront the world will not stand up to the test. The Israeli occupation is a source of danger to the Israelis themselves and the very reason of the lack of security. The more the occupation steps up its bestial acts, the more resistance escalates and violence aggravates.

The Arabs have taken part in the Madrid conference and presented objective proposals in the Washington talks for the sake of establishing a real, just, and comprehensive peace because only a just and comprehensive peace based on the international community resolutions, charters, and principles can provide security and stability in the region and end the cycle of violence. Instead of responding to Arab proposals, particularly the Syrian ones, Israel continued its maneuvers and prevarications in a bid to avoid the principles on which the peace process was based. These principles are land for peace, namely, full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as stipulated by the UN resolutions.

The Israeli rulers refuse to admit facts. They turn a blind eye to developments and try to delude themselves into believing that it is possible to achieve peace through the continuation of occupation. If they think so, they will

undoubtedly reap further bitter fruit. Peace and occupation cannot coexist. There can be no peace in the Middle East without full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and without the realization of the Palestinian people's real hopes and aspirations, led by freedom, dignity, and self- determination.

Only a just and comprehensive peace can provide security and stability. A just and comprehensive peace should be based on specific international resolutions that should be implemented in full and lead to Israel's withdrawal from every inch of the occupied territories. Otherwise, not one Israeli will enjoy peace or security.

Press: Israel's 'Terrorism' Source of Area Tension

JN0904085394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today under the headline "Separate Deals Do Not Make Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN writes on the Israeli practices regarding the peace process in the Middle East. TISHRIN says: When Israel goes too far in its insistence on separate deals, it proves that it does not want peace. Neither does it want the region to enjoy stability and tranquility. Israel's proposals of separate deals and settlements have become an indivisible part of its true objective of evading a just and comprehensive peace. It is simply a part of its maneuverings and deception to circumvent the Madrid conference's bases and its objective and true formula.

TISHRIN adds: The escalation of confrontations in the occupied Arab territories is a natural result of the Israeli policy based on peddling separate deals. Its weapons in this is the Oslo agreement. After signing this agreement on 13 September 1993, Israel was able to drag the Palestinian side into making further concessions and into relinquishing Palestinian rights. Israel used this agreement as a pretext to continue its terroristic and oppressive measures, and to perpetrate massacres against the sons of our people in the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN holds Israel responsible for the escalation of acts of violence in the occupied Arab territories. It says: This violence began in a form of terrorism, oppression, repression, and killing at the hands of the Israelis and their brutal and fascist practices against the Palestinian people. These practices have become even more rancorous since the signing of the Oslo agreement. They continued in a form of sporadic massacres, the biggest of which were the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the Jabaliya massacre.

TISHRIN adds: All developments indicate that the occupation troops, the settlers, and the Israeli terrorist organizations threaten to perpetrate new massacres in other places in the occupied Arab territories similar to the Hebron massacre.

TISHRIN notes that by all standards, Israel's terrorism is the source of tension and disturbances in the occupied territories and the region. Had Israel been really and truly serious about the stability of the situation, it would have responded to the requirements of the just and comprehensive peace, first and foremost showing readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, recognizing the Madrid formula, and implementing it in letter and spirit, especially since it is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The comprehensiveness of the solution, a return to the Madrid bases, the end of the Israeli occupation, and the renounciation of separate deals will contribute to achieving a true and just peace.

In an article under the headline "Peace and Occupation Cannot Go Together," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH also writes on the situation in the occupied Arab territories. It stresses that the Israeli occupation troops exploited the comprehensive military cordon around the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to launch an arrest campaign that has affected some 500 Palestinians on the pretext that they do not have Israeli work permits.

AL-THAWRAH says: It is no secret to anyone that the clamor the Israelis have been creating since the resistance operation in 'Afula, including the imposition of a comprehensive military cordon around the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, is fabricated and aimed at diverting interest from the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, which was perpetrated by the Zionist settlers through support from the Israeli occupation forces. This clamor has also come in the wake of the crime Israel has committed by blowing up the Sayyidat al-Najat Church near Beirut, and later the crime which was perpetrated by the occupation soldiers themselves at the Jabaliya camp a week ago.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Israelis will be making another grave mistake if they think or imagine—after all that has happened and is happening with acts of resistance and confrontations carried out by the Arabs against the Israeli occupation forces and settlers in the occupied Arab territories—that they can go ahead with the peace process in the Middle East and push it toward its specified objective of establishing a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question while they insist on the continued presence of the occupation troops and settlers in the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The international community, particularly the Middle East peace cosponsors, especially the United States, which assumes the responsibility of a full partner and an honest broker in the bilateral talks, must tell Israel loudly and clearly that the just and comprehensive solution to the region's crisis for which the Arabs, particularly Syria, are calling for, must guarantee the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces, the departure of the Zionist settlers from all the

occupied Arab territories, and the restoration of the Palestinian people's natural rights. Only this solution can bring security and stability to the entire region.

Radio: Oslo Accord Will Not Achieve Israeli Security

JN0904155894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After imposing a military siege on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli Government decided to do without the Palestinian work force and bring in foreign labor from outside. It is noteworthy that nearly 100,000 Palestinians worked in various Israeli economic installations, especially in tedious fields of work, in return for low wages that are not tantamount to the Israelis' wages.

Officials in Rabin's government hinted that these measures reflect the accelerating deterioration of security conditions and the impossibility of coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis. Many believed that this reality could prompt Rabin's government to continue on the road to a sound peace. However, this has not happened. Closing the occupied territories is a clear admission that Israel's previous proposals have failed, that the agreements it concluded with the Palestinian side did not change anything on the ground, and that tension could increase.

Israeli officials are fully aware that the occupation contradicts peace and security and that the Oslo agreement and the following agreements and arrangements did not meet the minimum demands and ambitions of the Palestinian people.

These agreements retained the settlers and the settlements, thus keeping the Palestinians in danger. The settlers are preparing for new massacres and are not hiding this fact. It is natural for the Palestinians to defend themselves and to raise their voices to demand real freedom and dignity. Indeed, there can be no freedom and dignity with the continuation of the occupation and settlements. There can be no freedom and dignity under an administrative rule in which the final say is for the occupying authority. Moreover, this contradicts the UN Security Council's resolutions that stipulate a full Israeli withdrawal and the removal of the settlements.

If, according to its officials, Israel is first concerned about Israelis' security, then the separate Oslo agreement will never achieve security for Israel. This is because occupation contradicts security and the Oslo agreement did not remove the occupation and the settlements.

A real, just, and comprehensive peace that uproots oppression and removes all manifestations of occupation and coercion is the only peace that can achieve security. Israel is building new walls and high racist barriers by imposing a siege on the Palestinian people, by turning the occupied territories into a detention center, and by ordering its army to raid houses and districts and arrest Arab citizens in a manner that only means further security deterioration for Israel. Instead of doing this, Israel should confront the roots of the problem and admit facts and realities. It should accept the UN Security Council resolutions and adhere to the bases and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace.

Is it not appropriate for Israel to exchange land for peace and grant the Palestinian people freedom of self-determination? How long will Israel continue to disavow the UN resolutions and ignore the fact that the Palestinian people cannot remain the prisoners of its tools of repression, that is, its soldiers, policemen, and settlers.

If Israel is using the impossibility of coexistence and the absence of security as a justification for its new repressive measures, then why doesn't it withdraw from the occupied territories and grant the Palestinians their right to self-determination and allow them to build their own future?

Do Israeli officials think the struggling Palestinian people will submit for one moment to the schemes of occupation, Judaization, and settlements? Israel knows the answer, despite all its efforts to ignore it—an answer confirmed by daily developments. Unless Israel submits to what developments dictate and admits that its first obligation, according to international legitimacy, is to withdraw and remove the settlements, then we do not think the blessings of peace will prevail over this region, which is plagued by the mentality of Zionist expansion, aggression, and hegemony.

Press on Israel's 'Military Siege' of Territories

JN1104062294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Press review]

[Text] Today's newspapers devote their commentaries to the military siege imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities on the occupied Arab territories, thus turning the occupied West Bank and Gaza into a closed detention camp.

Commenting on the Israeli acts of suppression against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, TISHRIN says: The Israeli Cabinet has extended indefinitely the military siege imposed on the occupied Arab territories, amid circumstances asserting that the situation in the occupied territories is unbearable and that our people there are experiencing hell because of Israel's iron-fist policy and the scheme of collective punishment.

Some Israeli officials have acknowledged that the increase in the Israeli military and economic pressure on the occupied territories will definitely generate more violence and resistance. This will also starve the sons of our people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The

policy of complete closure betrays total Israeli inability to face a growing, stepped-up Palestinian resistance.

TISHRIN adds: There is no doubt that the failure of the occupation to provide security to its settlers and forces is yet further evidence that Israel is incapable, whatever its methods and brutal, suppressive practices, of undermining the steadfastness of our people in the face of the Israeli war, aggression, and terrorism machine.

Israel has repeatedly resorted to such methods. This is not the first time the occupation authorities seal off the West Bank and Gaza and tighten the siege on them. What is strange, however, while observing the serious, explosive developments in the occupied territories, is the silence toward this situation and the indifference of some international capitals and political circles toward what is happening, despite its severity and seriousness. This is as if the fate of the Palestinian people does not deserve a word of justice against the Israeli occupier and as if threatening the very existence of this people no longer requires assuming urgent missions to save the life of the defenseless sons of Palestine, after the occupation has turned their life into unbearable hell because of the Israeli suppressive practices.

TISHRIN asserts that Israel takes lightly all human values and international laws and charters. The paper urges people with a living conscience who care about the stability and security of the West Bank and Gaza to come to the rescue of justice and humanity, lift the injustice and oppression against the Palestinian people, and protect its sons who are experiencing real massacres and a serious war of starvation.

AL-BA'TH comments on Israel's crimes in the occupied Arab territories that threaten peace opportunities. Israel has turned both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into closed detention camps. It has imposed collective punishment on the people of Palestine, thus violating all international norms and charters and the Geneva Convention on the protection of human rights.

The paper asserts that the measures adopted by the occupation against our people in the occupied territories are not new. The record of the occupation is rife with the ugliest kinds of crimes. The enemy generals have acknowledged that they are fighting a true war in the West Bank and Gaza.

AL-BA'TH notes that Israel sheds tears over peace and tries to appear before the world as an advocate of peace. This approach toward world public opinion is no longer useful to the Rabin government, having unmasked its bloody face through a series of crimes carried out in the occupied territories in broad daylight and under the very gaze of the whole world.

Concluding, the paper calls on those who are making serious efforts for a just and comprehensive peace to put an end, once and for all, to Israel's crimes because spilling Arab blood does not serve the peace process, nor make it possible to achieve any step forward.

Commentary Questions U.S. 'Honesty,' 'Neutrality'

JN1104152594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is clear that there has been no change in the Israeli position on how to deal with the peace process, while the U.S. position is still undecided, hesitating between following U.S. interests and complying with Israeli wishes. The idea of separate deals and secret talks still dominates Israeli thinking. Israel's talk about the comprehensiveness of negotiations is empty and meaningless. This being the situation, it takes us back to the same old question: What does resuming or not resuming the bilateral talks this month, or next month, or even after that, mean as long as nothing has changed in the Israeli way of thinking? Perhaps, counting on the U.S. stand to influence the Israeli position is not really in harmony with the current state of affairs. This is because Washington behaves toward the peace process from the position of someone influenced by the Israeli stand and not someone who influences that stand. For Israel, this is not new. However, what is new is that nothing has changed in the U.S. position, just as Israel and its strong lobbies in the United States have always wanted it. They want the United States to take Israel's side, not even allowing to play a neutral role. Neutrality, a balanced position, and the role of an honest broker are all unacceptable to Israel, because it cannot tolerate seeing Washington in a position that is not fully biased toward it, taking into consideration that it relies on the U.S. support for its aggressions against Arab land and rights. Throughout the Arab dealings with the U.S. peace initiative, it has become clear that every time there has been a difference between the U.S. position and the Israel position over the peace process, even though it may have been for considerable reasons in favor of Washington's position and in the interest of the peace process, the U.S. position did not take long to move back into line with the Tel Aviv rulers' position, even though it may have led to a setback in peace efforts.

Israel's game has been exposed. It is obvious that what it wants is to impose an Israeli peace through separate deals with each Arab party. It wants a peace that would allow it to maintain its military, security, economic, and political supremacy in order to eventually have a free hand to control this region after the establishment of this so-called peace. However, the question is really whether or not Washington is still committed to the role of an honest and neutral partner in the peace process. This question should be posed in light of Washington's pressure on the various Arab parties, through various means, forms, methods, and names, which all serve the Israeli position. What is really required of the United States is that it prove its honesty by pressuring the party that is obstructing the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region; namely, Israel. The importance of an answer to this question lies in the possibilities of the

Arab parties returning to the Washington bilateral talks and the negotiating table at the end of this month. Will U.S. efforts actually include the signs of honesty that have long been awaited by the Arabs, or will the U.S. position continue to swing back and forth within the circle of Israeli influence?

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar-Dostam Offensive Reportedly Repelled

LD1004201594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] An offensive by Golboddin-Dostam's militia was aborted this morning by Islamic Army forces. A source from the General Command of Kabul Garrison told a BIA military correspondent that the infamous militia of Golboddin-Dostam launched a failed offensive at about 0500 this morning from an easterly direction. It was aborted in the first few hours as a result of the resistance and defense of mojahedin and the Islamic Army forces. The rebellious militia suffered 40 casualties and dozens of injuries and a number of their light and heavy weapons were destroyed. According to another report, following their defeat, the failed militia subjected residential areas and public utility to blind rocket attacks. As a result of those savage attacks five compatriots were injured. Similarly, as a result of a rocket landing in the contagious diseases hospital two of our compatriots were slightly injured and the hospital building was damaged. [passage omitted]

After a failed attack in Samangan Province, the infamous militia faced a counteroffensive by forces of the Islamic Army of Afghanistan, and three enemy positions were conquered. A DShK machine-gun, 10 Kalashnikovs, a PK machine-gun, along with a quantity of the militia's ammunitions have been captured by the Islamic Army Mojahedin in the operation. The enemy's offensive started from the east and west of (Shorotyar) in Dehkoh where it was heavily dislodged as a result of joint operations of the Islamic Army forces under the command of the great jehadi commanders esteemed Mawlawi Din Mohammad and esteemed Khoshbakht. The enemy suffered heavy losses.

India

U.S. Cautioned About Giving F-16's to Pakistan

BK0804161994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] India has cautioned the United States against triggering of an arms race in the subcontinent by supplying sophisticated aircraft to Pakistan. The Indian side told the U.S. deputy secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, that any supply of F-16 aircraft to Islamabad will compel New Delhi to take measures in response. This will diversify the much-needed resources for the welfare of the people and affect the ongoing economic reforms. It was emphatically stated at the talks that the U.S. move is of great concern to New Delhi. The Indian side said in the public mind there is a U.S. tilt toward Pakistan seen as the replay of the cold war attitude. It said that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and territorial integrity will not be sacrificed at any cost. On nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, India backs the 1988 action plan announced by Rajiv Gandhi which offers several initiatives for achieving the goal. On the Washington-backed Pakistan proposal for a multilateral fora for nonproliferation, India and the U.S. agreed to continue the dialogue on the concept.

Mr. Talbott had an hour-long meeting with the prime minister today. Mr. Narasimha Rao has accepted in principle President Clinton's invitation to visit the United States. The dates of the visit will be worked out later by the two sides.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Talbott ruled out supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, if Islamabad does not agree to a verifiable cap on its nuclear weapons program. He said nuclear proliferation is a major issue which needs to be addressed immediately. He said the U.S. favors expansion of the UN Security Council and India being the largest democracy is a clear leader to (?claim) a position in the council.

Mr. Talbott has since reached Islamabad on a three-day visit to Pakistan.

Envoy to U.S.: Pakistan 'Continues To Interfere'

BK1104041694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] India's ambassador to the United States, Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, says that Pakistan continues to interfere in the internal affairs of India. He said he has collected evidence of this during his two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Ray was talking to newspersons in New Delhi. He said the evidence collected relates to the foreign mercenaries in Kashmir, foreign arms and ammunition seized, and the location of camps where the Pakistan authorities have been training terrorists. The ambassador said approximately 44,000 Hindus, Sikh, and Muslim families have fled the valley because of the militant activities.

Mr. Ray said the delivery of more F-16 aircraft to Islamabad by Washington will not reduce tension in South Asia nor will it promote any dialogue between India and Pakistan. He warned the United States that if it does not desist from this course, the arms race in the subcontinent will be fueled.

Minister: Government Not To Slow Down Missile Program

BK0904085294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, has asserted that India will not succumb to pressure from any country to slow down its missile development program. Talking to newsmen in Madras today, he said that Prithvi [surface-to-surface missile] has been successfully tested and it is for the technical experts to decide about its induction into the armed forces.

Mr. Mallikarjun also expressed concern over the possibility of a military imbalance in the region if Washington supplies F-16 jets to Pakistan.

Official: Russia Against Interference in Kashmir

BK0804133094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Russia is against any external interference in solving the Kashmir issue. This was stated by the Russian deputy foreign minister, Mr. Aleksandr Panov, at a press conference in New Delhi today. He said his country favors bilateral talks between India and Pakistan to resolve the issue.

Mojahedin Reportedly Kill Soldiers in Kashmir

BK0804154894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, widespread protest marches and demonstrations have been reported from different places in the valley. In Srinagar and other cities and towns, people came out on the streets after Friday congregation despite strict repressive measures taken by Indian authorities. They chanted slogans against Indian atrocities and expressed determination to continue their struggle until victory. In response to occupation forces stepped up operations against the civilian population, mojahedin have launched retaliatory attacks on Indian troops. A number of Indian soldiers were reported killed in rocket attacks on military headquarters in Mendhar and Rajauri area. Mojahedin, in a rocket attack on battalion headquarters in Mendhar, killed 10 Indian soldiers and injured 15 of them. The battalion headquarters caught fire which raged for six hours. Another four Indian troops were killed and several injured when mojahedin launched a rocket attack on Gorkha regiment headquarters in Lam in Rajauri area. The battalion headquarters building was badly damaged. Another report says mojahedin killed six Indian troops in an attack on military headquarters in Bandipura. Mojahedin also blasted an ammunition depot in the area. Indian troops later cordoned off the area and innocent people were subjected to violence.

Kashmiri Leaders, Rao Discuss Future Political Process

BK0904095494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Top Kashmiri leaders met the prime minister in New Delhi last night in a bid to remove bottlenecks impeding the political process in the state. The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot; the former state chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah; the pradesh [state] Congress-I chief, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Kar, met Mr. Narasimha Rao soon after their arrival in the capital from Srinagar yesterday evening. The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General Krishna Rao, who also arrived in New Delhi yesterday, is likely to meet the prime minister and other central leaders today to apprise them of the situation in the state.

[Hong Kong AFP in English 1832 GMT on 8 Apr in a New Delhi-datelined report adds: 'An umbrella group of Kashmiri Moslems Friday said it was ready for talks to end the separatist violence in the Indian state, where 11 people were killed the past few days.

'The All Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference said it had come to New Delhi on "an important mission" and was prepared for negotiations "without reservation and without prejudice."

'Four leaders of the Conference, which includes nearly 30 groups sympathetic to the Moslem separatist campaign in Kashmir, arrived here on their way to Vienna for a meeting between Kashmiri leaders of India and Pakistan.

'The Conference officials said the release of Kashmiris from Indian prisons would "create the right atmosphere for holding a free and frank dialogue."

'It was not clear whether the leaders would meet with government officials here.

'The Hurriyat Conference has previously refused to accept anything short of independence for Kashmir, a picturesque state whose ownership is bitterly contested by arch foes India and Pakistan.

'On Friday, the Hurriyat Conference leaders held a closed-door meeting here with Karan Singh, son of the former Hindu king of Kashmir state who agreed to the Indian union in 1948.

'"We exchanged ideas and shared perceptions" with Karan Singh, Conference spokesman Maulvi Abbas Ansari said. "Karan Singh does owe a duty to the people of Kashmir ... as a genuine and forthright seer in politics."

'Karan Singh told reporters that the visit of the Moslem leaders to the Indian capital was a positive sign. "It shows they have realised the importance of negotiations and this implies violence cannot solve problems." ']

15 People Reportedly Killed in Kashmir

BK0904152294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops have martyred another 15 people in their intensified military crackdowns on Kashmiris. In a vendetta-seeking operation, Indian soldiers resorted to indiscriminate firing, killing three people, including a young woman, Haleema, in Rambagh area of Srinagar. The two others martyred were Tariq Ahmad and Farooq Ahmad. Six people were injured in the firing. Five mojahedin were martyred after they were arrested in Hathipura in Hindwara area, two in Tinmarg, and one in Shupiyan. Two bodies were recovered from River Jhelum in Ananatnag-Islamabad,

believed to have been killed by troops in custody. Two mojahedin were martyred in a clash with Indian troops in Pulwama. Mojahedin in retaliation threw hand grenades on a military vehicle and military bunkers, killing and wounding a number of soldiers. Two soldiers were killed in a clash with mojahedin at Mandora in Badgam area.

Kashmiri Leaders Praise Pakistani Support

BK1004143594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops continued their repressive measures killing and wounding a number of people in ruthless military crack down in Srinagar, Baramula, Kupwara, and Pulwama. Several innocent civilians were also arrested. In all, 10 people were killed in random firing by Indian soldiers who also killed six people in indiscriminate firing in Srinagar. Mojahedin in retaliatory attacks killed nine soldiers. They carried out rocket attack on a battalion headquarters at (Manjakot) in Rajouri area killing six Indian soldiers. The building of the Battalion headquarters was badly damaged. Mojahedin killed another two soldiers when they opened fire on rampaging troops during siege and search operations in Pulwama.

The leader of the All Parties Hurriyat [Freedom] Conference in occupied Kashmir has described the last session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva as a great victory for the Kashmiri people as Pakistan was able to internationalize the Kashmir issue. The Kashmiri leaders, who had come to the Indian capital to apprise the U.S. deputy secretary of state and members of his delegation about the ground realities in occupied Kashmir, rejected India's claim that the deferment of the resolution on Kashmir at the human rights conference in Geneva was a severe jolt to the Kashmiri movement. In an interview, the Hurriyat leaders Professor Abdul Ghani, Justice retired Mufti Bahuddin Farooqi, Mr. G.M. Bhatt, Maulavi Abbas Ansari, and Mr. G.N. Shahin said top priority for the Kashmiri people is to get rid of the yoke of Indian slavery. They praised Pakistan for internationalizing the Kashmir problem, saying it was a great achievement as Kashmiri people could not do so in Geneva without Pakistan. The Hurriyat leaders praised Ms. Benazir Bhutto's government for its stand on Kashmir and hoped Pakistan would continue its diplomatic, political, and moral support to the Kashmiri people.

Radio Sums Up Developments in Kashmir Situation

BK1004161494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General Krishna Rao, met the prime minister and the home minister in New Delhi. He is understood to have discussed with them measures to improve the situation in the state.

In Kashmir valley, militants shot dead a former MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr. Ghulam Qadir Mir, last evening at his residence at village (Uran) in Pulwama District. An associate of late Sheikh Abdullah, Mir is the 11th former legislator to be killed by militants in the last four years. Meanwhile, two militants have been killed and 16 arrested during the last 24 hours. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them.

The Indian ambassador to the United States, Mr. Sidhartha Shanker Ray, has said the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India is legal, final, and irrevocable. He said there can be no compromise on the matter. Addressing the members of the Jammu Bar Association, Mr. Ray said the seizure of over 10,000 weapons supplied by Pakistan and the capture of foreign mercenaries is clear evidence of Islamabad's continuing support to the militants. He said the U.S. Administration is fully aware of Islamabad's direct involvement in terrorist activities.

Press Reports Kashmir Militants Attack Pakistan Army

BK1104080394 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Press reports have come in that the Kashmir militants are now turning their guns on their Pakistani trainers. Newspaper reports from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir say that 12 clashes have taken place between the Kashmiri militants and the Pakistani Army. Both sides suffered casualties. Another report says over 50 clashes have taken between rival militant groups this year to gain supremacy in the Pak-sponsored militant activities. The terrorists have also been resorting to abduction of militants of rival groups.

Preparations Under Way for Rao Visit To U.S.

BK1004090094 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 19 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 18 March—Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao will visit the United States in May to resolve the complexities in Indo-U.S. ties centering on the Kashmir issue and the nuclear nonproliferation treaty by holding summit-level talks. The Indian ambassador to the United States, Mr. Sidharata Shankar Ray, will arrive in New Delhi on 2 April to finalize the date for Rao's visit. Earlier, Indian officials held that it would not be proper for Rao to visit Washington as the Clinton administration was exerting too much pressure on the Kashmir and Punjab issues. These officials gained confidence after the defeat of the Pakistan-sponsored resolution on Kashmir in Geneva and advised Rao to go ahead with his proposed trip to the U.S.

Apart from exerting pressure on India on the human rights situation in Kashmir, the Clinton administration is also raising the Punjab issue which New Delhi no longer acknowledges is a problem. President Clinton is

doing things that have not been done by the former U.S. presidents. He is responding to letters written by any Sikh militant and has already replied to the letters from two of them. Washington is also pressuring New Delhi to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and all these have become a cause of headache for India.

New Delhi's ties with the Democratic Bush administration was very cordial but it is not the same with the Clinton administration. India did not expect Clinton to become the President. India cannot match even somewhat the intense Pakistani propaganda in Washington; and the favorite issue is human rights for the Democratic senators, who regularly raise a hue and cry over the human rights situation in Kashmir, China, Iran, and other countries. This issue is the main obstacle that has prevented the United States from granting the most favored nations status to China. Hence, there is no reason to believe they will easily stop raising the human rights question in Kashmir.

There has been a diplomatic victory in Geneva, but the United States did not support any side. Indian officials believe that had America exerted pressure, it would not have been necessary for China or Iran to appear in the field. In that case, Pakistan would not have gone so far. The U.S. silence over this issue is a cause of worry for India. Solarz is not willing to become the U.S. ambassador to India due to pressure from the Clinton administration, causing a great setback for India. It is well-known that Solarz has a soft spot for India. Under these circumstances, the Indian officials feel that Rao should go to Washington to express India's feelings. They are confident that the talks between President Clinton and Rao would be successful like the latter's earlier talks with the British prime minister, John Major, and the German chancellor, Helmut Kohl. It is for this reason that the Indian ambassador to Washington, Sidharta Shankar Ray, has been summoned to New Delhi.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department has again commented on the human rights situation in India. This time the concern has been voiced not by Robin Raphel but the Secretary of State Warren Christopher before the subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives over the situation in Punjab and Kashmir. According to reports from Washington, in reply to Democratic Congressman James P. Moran, Christopher said a clear difference of opinion exists between New Delhi and Washington on the two issues of human rights and nuclear nonproliferation. He said, "In fact, concern over the human rights situation in Kashmir and Punjab has not yet been allayed." Christopher also did not hesitate to praise India. In his words "the United States has traditional and friendly ties with India. We want that this relationship to strengthen further. We have very high opinion of India. Unlike other friendly countries, U.S.-India ties are not totally free of problems. The two spheres where difference of opinion exists is human rights and nuclear nonproliferation."

The U.S. Secretary of State is confused over India's nuclear programs. Referring to India's first underground nuclear test in 1974, Christopher said India might have acquired nuclear capability in the meantime. This is also applicable in the case of Pakistan. The U.S. wants nuclear research programs conducted by these two countries for military purposes to be kept within a certain limit. Christopher evaded the question on why the ban that has been imposed against Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment has not been imposed on India also. However, he said he would reply to this question later.

The complexities regarding the appointment of the U.S. ambassador to India has increased. Solarz who had been identified as the next U.S. ambassador to India has stepped aside realizing the attitude of Clinton administration officials. Solarz became aware of this attitude after he held talks with the U.S. vice president, Albert Gore, last Thursday [10 March] and earlier with the national security adviser, Anthony Lake, and his assistant, Sandy Berger. These three people hinted to Solarz that his chances of being nominated as ambassador were thin. Solarz later withdraw his candidacy.

Experts believe that despite the great publicity that Solarz did not get the ambassador's job because he is very sympathetic to India. Recently, Warren Christopher, announced that Solarz would be made ambassador to India. He added that the announcement of his appointment had been delayed due to procedural formalities. Earlier, Solarz had been accused for his alleged involvement in providing visa to a Hong Kong businessman. Later, he was acquitted of the charge after an FBI inquiry.

The middle-level officials of the U.S. State Department are against the appointment of Solarz as ambassador as he is close to President Clinton.

Accord Signed With Cuba for Scientists' Training

BK1104100794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] India and Cuba have drawn up a work plan to train experts and scientists in the field of agriculture. According to the work plan which is for the next two years, Cuban scientists will get training at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Similarly, Indian scientists and experts will get facilities for studying Cuban techniques in that country. An agreement on the subject was signed by joint secretary in the Agricultural Ministry, Mr. Sunil Sood and the Cuban ambassador, Ms. Olga Chamero Trias, in New Delhi today.

D'Souza Reinstalled as Chief Minister of Goa

BK0904074994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Wilfred D'Souza has been reinstalled as the chief minister of Goa. He was administered the oath of

office and secrecy by the governor, Mr. B. Rachaiah, in Panaji this evening. Five other ministers also took office. They are: Mr. Vasu Paik Gaonkar, Mr. Suresh Parulekar, Mr. Ashok Naik Salgaonkar, Dr. (Karno Pigado), and Mr. Vinay Kumar Usgaonkar.

Talking to newspersons after the swearing-in ceremony, the chief minister said he will act according to the wishes of the party high command on the induction of five dissident ministers who resigned last week.

INSAT 2-C To Use KU Band To Receive Signals From Satellites

BK1104091694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Indian National Satellite—INSAT 2-C will be launched during the middle of next year. The annual report of the Department of Space says that the INSAT 2-C and INSAT 2-D will be much different from the earlier INSAT series. The INSAT 2-C will use for the first time KU band which will help in receiving signals from satellites through small dish antenna.

Iran

Tehran Friday Prayers First Sermon Condemns U.S. 'Crimes'

LD0804142394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1032 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization and acting Friday prayers leader, in Tehran on 8 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] May God's peace and mercy be upon you all [passage omitted] I wish to pass a message on behalf of Imam Sadeq to the Islamic world, to all Muslims—wherever they live and whatever sect they follow—and to everyone who is under the enemies' oppression in the East and the West, that you should strive to become familiar with the Imams; and if you desire salvation you should apply this culture and these training methods. You should not be afraid of the enemy, shortages, and hardship. You should stand against the enemy. Ultimately you shall survive and the enemies will depart. [shouts of approval from the congregation]

The enemy only thinks of himself. He thinks of lust, wealth, status, and mundane matters of this valueless, untrustworthy, and disloyal world. Divine tradition will not allow them to survive. World creation is not based on this. The creation is righteous. We did not create the earth, the heavens and what is in between them in vain [Koranic verse]. They are wrong because they are moving contrary to the objectives of creation. They will, thus, be crushed. You, the Palestinian youth, who went and carried out that suicidal action in revenge: First, may God join your soul with those of all the immaculate martyrs of Islam. [shouts of approval]

Second, we are satisfied with what you have done, and may God give some of the rewards of your deed to us.

Third, the enemy should understand what the problem is: When a desperate person reaches the end of his rope, this is to what he will resort. How can mankind tolerate injustice forever? They might tolerate it for a year or two, or 10 or 20 years. You have been bullying these people for the past 45 years. You have suppressed them for 45 years. They are human beings and not sheep to put up with everything until they are slaughtered.

God did not create mankind to put up with tyranny. God did not create human beings to be feeble. God created mankind to be an honor-seeking, a justice-seeking creature in search of the truth. These virtues of mankind will work for him eventually. But there is a limit to each individual's endurance. There is a limit to one's patience. When one runs out of patience, the oppressor must expect to see the consequences of his torturous deeds.

The United States is making a mistake. The United States' allies are wrong. Israel is wrong. They are wrong to imagine that a handful of weak and vile individuals can solve humanity's plight by sitting around a table to sign an accord. The United States is committing crimes in the world today. On the one hand, when people are killed while saying prayers, they play dead in terms of adopting a stance. Their only response was a feeble and tasteless move, just to silence their own public. On the other hand, when this man took action to avenge the blood of those martyrs by punishing them, they could not wait to hold a session to condemn this action. Shame on you. They killed worshipers inside a mosque during Ramadan, and you did not give a damn. Whereas, when this young person sacrificed his own life just to demonstrate that we are alive, just to tell you not to go on with what you are doing and just to stop tyranny and murder, then you sit and condemn him. [shouts of approval from congregation] [passage omitted]

Our Bosnian brothers and sisters, and our brothers and sisters who are the target of repression in Gorazde today—and with the United Nations failing to do its routine work—they should know that they will survive because they are righteous. They must learn from history and be a model for the future. They should continue to resist as they have done so well until now. May God bless them with his victory.

Jannati Friday Prayers Second Sermon

LD0804145894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1053 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization and acting Friday prayers leader, in Tehran on 8 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I would like to make a friendly reference, on this occasion, to the issue of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the New Year holidays some programs were broadcast

and you watched them. A number of newspapers wrote about those programs and some of the papers, to be fair, were quite honest, God bless them. They wrote about the weaknesses of those programs in detail.

The Vision [television] should think of ways to perform its duty. What is that duty? I have to only refer to it, as time is short and I have no other choice. The duty of that organization and other publicity organizations is to attract people, particularly the young generation, to sense right, justice, human qualities, and moral and spiritual issues. That is their duty. They should also stop people turning to indecent and inhuman acts—wrong, oppression, treachery, and other filthy qualities. What can be done about that? People should sit down and think about that, and that is not easy. The nature of any person, particularly people who have not been properly educated, is toward pleasure. That is very clear. Those people follow anyone who better provides that pleasure. That is the initial nature of human beings.

The duty of those publicity organs is to see which of those pleasures are harmful and which are useful. They should sweeten the things that, in the first instance, appear to be bitter but are, in fact, useful—just like a mother or a doctor does who covers a bitter medicine with sugar so that the child takes it. If it is not covered, then the child does not take the medicine. When it is covered, the child takes the medicine and gets better. That is the way programs should be presented—sugar-coated—so that what people initially reject, but is useful to them, seems appetizing. The same way, they should make the things that are harmful to the people taste bitter. [passage omitted]

It is easy to say these things, but their implementation brings a great deal of problems.

Now, the dear people who have accepted the new responsibilities at the Voice and Vision should work on those issues. Spiritual leaders, seminaries, believers, university lecturers, and everyone who can help them should offer their help so that that valuable service is rendered properly.

Another topic of discussion concerns the anniversary of the martyrdom of the Martyr Ayatollah Musa Sadr and his esteemed sister on 19 Farvardin [8 April]. These two dear ones were martyred after enduring torture in the prisons of Baathist Iraq. [passage omitted].

Another issue concerns our problems in the political realm. A great deal of effort is being taken to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to surrender, and there is a plan by the United States, which is being clearly displayed in practice, to impoverish us financially. This is to say that the United States is trying to limit our oil income, which constitutes one of our country's sources of income, and, obviously, the more we earn from this source, the more developed our country will become, and the less we earn the greater the number of problems we will face. They are exerting pressures to reduce this income.

Their scheme is a dastardly one. In an OPEC meeting, everyone, except one member, agrees that oil production should be reduced so as to increase the prices. That certain member says: No, the production levels should stay unchanged for a while. This is despite the fact that the said member country, which itself earns its revenues from producing and exporting oil, fully understands that it will be harmed by such a policy. It also understands that losses will be incurred by other Arab countries and in fact all OPEC members. But they still say: Let everyone burn with us. This is what the situation is like. The said country is prepared to suffer losses, and also let the others—which are after all its allies—to lose as well.

This is how it is. They [not further identified] have played, wherever possible, a role similar to the one described above. However, we want to tell them something, which we want them to hear carefully, with all earplugs removed. We want to say that no matter what happens to us, we will never—never—surrender to America and Israel. This, in effect, means that we will never surrender to oppression, injustice, and coercion. [crowd chants in support]

We have Imam 'Ali in our history; we have Fatimah Zahra in our history; we have Ja'far Sadeq in our history; we have the martyrs of Karbala in our history. When we have these models, surrender does not mean anything to us. What are you going to do about it? Okay, you will exert more pressure on us; the implementation of our development plans might be delayed for a few years, but so what? Our people might be under a bit of pressure, that is right; but our people are ready to accept this.

If you see once in a while someone saying something, this is not the reason—a certain amount of discrimination does take place; some injustices take place; a certain amount of desire for the high life exists; people see a certain amount of wrong-doing from certain people. When the people see these, they complain, and they have a right to complain, and their complaints should be investigated. However, the fundamental issue remains the same. If the Islamic Republic and the revolution were to be destroyed under pressure who would accept this? Our models in our history have shown us the way. We shall eat hunger! We shall protect our faith! [passage omitted]

Qom Second Friday Sermon on Relations With U.S.

LD0904060294

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian at 1441 GMT on 8 April carries the second Friday prayer from Qom by Ayatollah Haj Ebrahim Amini, lecturer at theological school and member of the Assembly of Experts. The sermon lasts 17 minutes.

In the second sermon he speaks, in part, about the severing of relations with the United States in 1980, which he says is now Muslim's number one enemy, and that Tehran will not reestablish relations with Washington.

He says: "One of the great events of the week is the 1980 severing of relations with the United States. This severing of relations is a source of pride for Islamic Iran. Islamic Iran is proud to have such independence of spirit as to be able to put the United States aside. It is very happy about this and it is not prepared to return to American servitude. Although U.S. officials sometimes show courtesy here and there, such courtesies are to no avail as long as the United States does not end its wicked ways in the world [crowd noise] and as long as it does not end its enmity with Islam. The United States has really become the biggest enemy of Islam today. Those courtesies will bear no fruit and as long as the United States is a world Satan, Iranian people are determined not to establish any relations with it."

Editorial Criticizes Yazdi's Sermon on Hajj

NC0904152594 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari: "Which Fact?"]

[Text] On Friday, 1 April, His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi, the esteemed head of the judiciary and the acting Friday imam of Tehran spoke about the Hajj issue in his Friday prayer sermons at Tehran University. There he stated some things that were "unfamiliar" to the pain-inured ears of his addressees. It was thought that his remarks were not "clear" because they were "brief." Therefore, it is necessary for him to answer questions about the ambiguities that his remarks on Friday raised in the minds of his friends and of his enemies, who are always lying in ambush with their spiteful analyses and commentaries. In taking advantage of the situation, Ayatollah Yazdi should give some clear explanations and thus remove all ambiguities. Some of the questions that have risen are:

A. The esteemed Friday prayer speaker, who is himself a high-ranking official, told the high-ranking officials of the country: "Bilateral or multilateral issues cannot be solved on a unilateral basis. One should never lose sight of this fact and solve the matter on a unilateral basis. Concerning the issue of hajj, one should accept that the problem is a bilateral problem..."

Ayatollah Yazdi has not given any explanation about the "unilateral solution" he considers to be illogical and also he did not say what he means by "bilateral and multilateral solutions." Does a bilateral solution mean that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Saudi Government should consult each other and exchange views on solving the hajj issue? If that is it, then this is something that is done extensively every year, and reports concerning these talks are published in the mass media. Apparently, such bilateral consultations and talks cannot be what Ayatollah Yazdi meant, since in his sermon he told the worshipers "of course, you know that the responsible officials have been trying to have discussions—they are discussing it...." Therefore, it seems that the "bilateral solution" that the head of the judiciary is proposing must be of another type.

Ayatollah Yazdi said in relation to this: "One should never lose sight of one fact that concerning the issue of hajj, one should accept that the problem is a bilateral problem." Again he does not explain what this "fact"(!) that one should "not lose sight of" is, or what the "problem" is which, according to him is "bilateral." What everyone knows, and which is extremely clear, is that performing the hajj is a definite right of all Muslims, and disavowing pagans is an indivisible part of the hajj. According to the imam and his successor, "a hajj without disavowal is not a hajj," and the Islamic Republic of Iran has always demanded and still demands this definite right.

Now, in order to remove all ambiguities, His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi should answer the following questions: First of all, has the Islamic Republic of Iran asked for more than this from the Saudi Government? Secondly, are these two demands not the definite and natural rights of Muslims? If the answers to these questions are positive—which they are—then the next question is: What is the "fact" and the "problem" that the esteemed head of the judiciary is worried will be ignored? As everyone knows—something of which the Saudi rulers have repeatedly stated and that Ayatollah Yazdi is also clearly aware—the Saudis' "problem" is the organizing of the demonstrations during the Hajj ceremonies for the disavowal of pagans. The Saudis have said—and especially last year they said it blatantly—that because of U.S. pressures, they cannot allow the pilgrims to the House of God to organize these demonstrations! They insisted that this "fact"(!) should be understood by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran!? But if the esteemed head of the judiciary does not mean this when he refers to a problem(!) and a fact(!) then which "problem"(!) and which "fact"(!) is he talking about?

B. His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi knows that after the bloody incident in Mecca and the massacre of the innocent pilgrims to the House of God by the Saudi Government in 1987 and after a three-year interruption in the hajj for Iranians, finally in 1991 the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia officially agreed that each year at least 150,000 Iranian pilgrims would go on the Hajj and organize the disavowal of pagans demonstrations in Holy Mecca on the sixth day of Dhu al-Hijja. This agreement was implemented in 1991 and 1992. But last year, the Saudi Government—despite this official agreement—deployed its military force and its armored units and APC's as if it was going to war against a gathering of unarmed pilgrims who were dressed only in their pilgrim's garb and were chanting "God is Great." And they prevented them from expressing their disgust with the polytheists of the twentieth century and with the modern idols! Therefore, should not the esteemed Friday prayer speaker have clearly referred to this breach of faith and spoken about the "fact" that the Saudi Government has officially trampled on official agreements and accords?

C. In another part of his second sermon, His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi, strongly criticized the government's decision banning holders of passports from visiting Saudi Arabia during the Hajj ceremonies without observing formalities and said:

"I ask the honorable minister, and the esteemed deputy minister: Are you in a position to ban anyone from travelling abroad? Is leaving the country in your hands? What is the legal basis of your decision?"

Naturally the Government adopted this measure on the basis of interests and of norms and regulations. Instead of asking the worshipers, the esteemed speaker at the Friday prayers should have asked the officials—and he himself is a high-ranking official. As for us, even though we are not really aware of the reason for the decision to adopt such a measure, nevertheless we clearly consider it a logical decision in conformity with the people's interests.

Apparently the Saudi Government intends to independently(!) grant visas to 20,000 Iranian pilgrims outside the framework of the existing and official regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The question that arises is: Would it not have been better for His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi to ask the Saudi officials that if, according to what they allege, they cannot accept more than 60,000 Iranian pilgrims, why are they allowing 20,000 more to go? And if this allegation is not sincere—and it is not—why do they want to reduce the quota of Iranian pilgrims?

The esteemed speaker at the Friday prayers definitely knows that currently, nearly 450,000 have applied for the Hajj. Therefore, is it fair for the definite right of these people—among them a large number of elderly women and men—to be handed over to others, even though they are also anxious to go on the Hajj? They have not applied and their names are not on the lists; but they can go anyway because of greater financial resources. Since the Saudis want to create impediments, is it right to take someone else's turn and to break the rules? In other words, in addition to the requirement of "affordability," as stated in the teachings [of the Koran], has "having more money" also been added to the list? Affordability for the Hajj applies to everyone who has the ability to perform the pilgrimage, and those who have more money do not take priority. And if there are limitations on performing the Hajj such as the Saudi officials have imposed, then the turns of those who "can afford the journey" and have applied and waited for years will be given to those who have more money. Finally, the esteemed speaker at the Friday prayers, who is himself one of the sympathizers and devoted servants of the Islamic revolution, should pay more attention to such points....

Yemeni Foreign Minister Basindwah Visits

Commentary on Visit

LD0804141394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yemen's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Salim Basindwah arrived in Tehran yesterday and was officially welcomed by Iran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati. This visit's aim is to submit the Yemeni president's message to Iran's president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to hold talks within the framework of mutual relations, as well to exchange views on most important regional and international issues.

To this end, in a meeting that was held by Iran and Yemen's foreign ministers, expansion and strengthening of ties between the two countries in political and economic fields, as well as the international situation, were discussed. During the talks, the two sides stressed unity and solidarity among the Islamic countries as (?necessary for combating) plots hatched by the enemies of Islam in view of the two countries' common history and religion. The two countries also expressed their willingness to expand mutual relations.

In this connection, Iran's foreign minister, Dr. Velayati said: The foreign forces cannot guarantee regional security, hence expansion of cooperations among the Islamic countries is necessary for strengthening the world of Islam. Dr Velayati said: If such a strong cooperation existed in the world of Islam, the enemies of Islam would not dare to occupy Palestine in the heart of the Islamic countries.

In part of his speech, Iran's foreign minister informed the Yemeni foreign minister of Iran's support for the reunification of Yemen, and described as effective the solving of Yemen's problems and the existence of a powerful Yemen in creating stability and peace in the region.

The realities of political conditions and equations in the region and the world are such that these countries have no option other than a realistic attitude toward regional issues. Such an attitude requires them to move in a direction in which expansion of all-sided regional relations, both political and economic, should enjoy top priority. At any rate, the experiences of the past few years have shown that although the regional countries, due to certain problems, have failed to have desirable relations, there are valuable chances, a sound and logical use of which can strengthen solidarity among the regional countries more than ever in the past.

In this connection, the Yemeni foreign minister's visit to Iran is an effective step that can be assessed within the framework of long-term objectives in expanding all-sided cooperation. These objectives are expected to receive further attention of the two countries' officials and to obtain desirable progress during the Yemeni foreign minister's visit to Tehran.

Meets With President

LD0904101594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah. The president described the strengthening of cooperation between Iran and Yemen as being important in helping to safeguard the security and stability of the region. Stressing the need for strengthening the unity of

the two Yemens, the president announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to help in this matter.

At the start of the meeting, the Yemeni foreign minister offered the warmest greetings from the president, government, and people of his country to the government and people of Iran. He described relations between the two countries as deep-rooted and historic. He expressed the interest of the government and people of Yemen in strengthening these relations. After reporting on the latest developments in Yemen, on behalf of the Yemeni president, he invited Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Yemen.

Meets With Other Officials

JN1004074494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] A round of Yemeni-Iranian talks was held in Tehran this evening. The talks were headed on the Yemeni side by Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and on the Irani side by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Delegation members of both sides attended.

During the meeting, issues of common interest were reviewed. The two sides also discussed bilateral ties and the means of promoting them.

In a related development, the foreign minister and his delegation met with Iranian Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq at the Ministry of Commerce in Tehran at noon today. The talks addressed the fraternal bilateral ties, and the means of promoting them.

Afterward, the foreign minister met with Iranian Culture and Higher Education Minister Mohammad Reza Hashemi-Golpayegani. The talks addressed the prospects for promoting bilateral cooperation.

The two meetings were attended by the Yemeni ambassador in Tehran and the Iranian ambassador in Sanaa.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah also met with Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh in Tehran this evening. They discussed bilateral ties as well as issues of common interest to the two fraternal states.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the foreign minister, several officials of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, our ambassador in Tehran, and the Iranian ambassador to our country.

Concludes Visit

LD1004104094 Tehran IRNA in English 0951 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, 10 April, IRNA—The Yemeni foreign minister, Muhammad Salim Basindwah, wrapped up his three-day official visit and left Tehran today.

While here, he called on President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and submitted him a message from his Yemeni counterpart 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Basindwah also met other Iranian officials and discussed with them different areas of cooperation. He announced his country's readiness to host the second meeting of the joint economic commission at Sanaa.

The Yemeni foreign minister briefed the Iranian officials about the latest developments in his country.

Earlier on Saturday, the Yemeni foreign minister met with Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Reza Hashemi-Golpayegani and called for the establishment of a Persian language course at Sanaa University.

Referring to the willingness of Yemeni students to learn Persian language, Basindwah discussed the possibility of the admission of Yemeni students by Iranian universities.

Referring to the cultural commonalities between the two countries the Iranian minister stressed the need for the expansion of relations in educational and cultural areas. Iran and Yemen could also cooperate in health and medical fields, he added.

Golpayegani welcomed the idea of setting up a Persian language course and granting scholarship to Yemeni students to study at Imam Khomeyni International University.

He also called for participation of Yemeni students in the cultural and sports olympiad, being held in Iran annually.

Editorial Assails U.S. Policy on Fighting Drug Trade

NC0704185194 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The U.S. Drug Culture"]

[Text] The United States has produced another list of countries that it claims are not cooperating with its anti-drug trafficking efforts. Not surprisingly, Iran is included in the list, and according to U.S. sources, will not be eligible for receiving "U.S. aid" or U.S. support in obtaining loans from the World Bank.

Iran is using its own resources to fight drug producers and smugglers, and the effort is costing the Islamic Republic heavily, both in monetary and in human terms. Dozens of Iranian security forces members are killed or injured by drug smugglers every week, and the country is overstretching its financial resources in trying to cut the flow of drugs through its territories. This is no easy task since the border between Iran and Afghanistan, where most of the contraband is cultivated and transported to the U.S. and the European markets, stretches for hundreds of miles, and due to its remoteness, is extremely difficult to control.

Despite U.S. antagonism and Iran's own financial and technological limitations, the Islamic Republic continues to do its best to combat drug smuggling through its territory. Iran's Interior, Minister Mohamad Besharati, today announced the completion of a 30 km trench along Iran's eastern border where most of the illegal drugs enter Iranian territory.

The most important aspect of this issue is the fact that according to Western beliefs regarding the free market principle of supply and demand, supply will dwindle and vanish if demand is eliminated.

The voracious appetite of Americans for all kinds of drugs is a well known fact. Some U.S. administrations have made superficial attempts to curtail the use of drugs, but all government efforts have been cosmetic and were initiated as political ploys for attracting votes just before elections were due to be held. The most ludicrous and useless of these anti-drug campaigns was launched by the former U.S. first lady, Nancy Reagan, who coined the phrase "Just say no" in the naive belief that school children will be able to overcome peer pressure just by uttering a few meaningless words.

Illegal drug cultivation will continue so long as the United States and Europe provide such lucrative markets for its distribution, and the successful distribution of contraband drugs are only possible through the collusion and cooperation of the governments of drug consuming nations with drug distributors. Under these circumstances, it is hard to believe the sincerity and conviction of U.S. and other governments of drug consuming nations regarding their antidrug projects.

The annual revenue generated by the illegal drug trade in the West amounts to tens of billions of dollars and it seems implausible that the U.S. and other drug-using nations will allow this trade to continue without getting a share of its income. Also, the social fabric of these societies are conducive to the propagation of the drug culture.

The United States with its enormous wealth and its specialized anti-drug task forces is unable to stem the flow of drugs into its territories, and has repeatedly stated that it cannot control its borders effectively. If this statement is to be believed, then how can the same country expect others who lack its sophisticated technology and monetary resources to succeed in this campaign without financial and material help from world organizations charged with eradicating this dehumanizing trade.

It seems that the U.S. is, as usual, using any old excuse to single out the countries that are opposed to its policies for chastisement. On the one hand the United States insists that drugs must be eradicated and drug distributors must be punished. But on the other hand, through several international organizations which it finances, the U.S. condemns countries such as the Islamic Republic for executing convicted drug lords in accordance with the law of the land.

Before the United States passes judgment on other nations and societies, it will do well to take a look at its own society and start to implement social changes that will help its people find contentment and satisfaction in the everyday activities of the nucleus family rather than by using drugs.

Antidrug Fight 'Success'; U.S. Statement Denounced

LD0804083794 Tehran IRNA in English 2055 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, 7 April, IRNA—Commander of the Law Enforcement Forces and secretary of anti-drug campaign headquarters Brigadier General Reza Seyfollahi said here today that [words indistinct] claim regarding alleged Iranian flippant attitude towards drug trafficking revealed that Washington was worried about Iran's success in this area.

The U.S. under-secretary of state claimed Tuesday [5 April] that Iran and Syria were not serious in their anti-drug campaign.

Talking to IRNA, Seyfollahi said that the anti-drug efforts by various Iranian organizations particulary the law enforcement pesonnel and especially in the border areas with Pakistan and Afghanistan, had been admired several times by the international organizations.

He said that the international drug smugglers conducted by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) earned billions of dollars for the U.S. annually, however, as a result of Iran's vigorous campaign against the transit of drug to Europe and America via that Iranian territory, the U.S. Administration has suffered huge losses he added.

Seyfollahi said the U.S. by raising directed and calculated claims [passage indistinct]

He noted that the traffickers are generally equipped with the advanced U.S.-made weapons, and that a big part of the international drug trafficking operations are carried out under the financial and arms supports of the U.S.

"The U.S. and persons like Galindo Pohl who are under the influence of U.S., have times and again forwarded the unfounded claims that Iran executes political prisoners under the name of drug traffickers, in a bid to prevent Iran's decisive measures against narcotics."

Official Gives Details of Seizures of Drugs

LD0704193294 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, 7 April, IRNA—Some 95,215 kg of narcotics were seized by the law enforcement personnel last year, according to deputy chief of the force Brigadier General Ansari here Thursday.

He said that the amount of seizure was 24 percent more than the narcotic drugs seized the previous year. Ansari said that his forces also succeeded in busting 155 smuggling gangs and arresting 14,964 drug dealers.

Law enforcement activities over the past few years included building of 1,000 km of roads, 70 outposts, 140 watchtowers, blocking 20 passes frequented by drug traffickers and digging 38 km of canals along border strip, he said.

Thanks to such measures, Ansari said, drug traffickers have been forced to take a longer route in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The general said that 70 members of the law enforcement personnel attained martyrdom in 1993 in armed clashes with drug smugglers. The official referred to the forthcoming meeting in Tehran of Interpol (International Police) due to be held 4-6 July, saying it [word indistinct] that Interpol considered Iran [word indistinct] was an [words indistinct] role in fighting drug trafficking effective.

He concluded that 20 countries are expected to attend the session, which will deal with ways and means of combating drug traffickers throughout the region.

Opposition Leader Rajavi Urges Escalation of Protests

JN0804162794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Mar 94 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian resistance, has urged the Iranian people to escalate the struggle against the ruling regime in Iran, to pave the way for the liberation army to pounce on the regime.

Addressing the sons of Iran during a gathering of thousands of national liberation army fighters at one of the liberation army's camps [in Iraq] on the new Iranian year, Rajavi said: "Escalate your protests against the authority. These protests will pave the way for the liberation army's major assault. The regime is destined to fall."

The resistance leader gave an elaborate account of the Iranians' tragic economic and social situation under the ruling regime because of the $50-million foreign debt and the collapse of the rial exchange rate.

Majles Speaker Rowhani Meets Lebanon's Islamic Leader

LD0704143494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Majles Deputy Speaker Hasan Rowhani and Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement, held talks in Damascus last night.

According to the Central News Unit, in this meeting issues related to the world of Islam, in particular Palestine, were discussed. Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban said: Under the wise leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Islamic Republic of Iran stands as an obstacle to world arrogance. Witness to this fact are the various plots against the Islamic revolution.

The Majles deputy speaker responded by stressing the need for greater coordination between combatant Palestinian and Lebanese groups.

According to this report, a number of other Lebanese group leaders also met with Mr. Rowani yesterday and last night.

Tehran, Havana Sign Memorandum of Understanding

LD1004173494 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, 10 April, IRNA—A memorandum of understanding and a protocol were inked here Sunday between Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Nicolas Rodriguez and his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Va'ezi.

The two documents were signed at the second round of talks held between the two officials today.

The memorandum of understanding calls for expansion of Tehran-Havana scientific, cultural and technical collaboration and the protocol underlines cooperation between Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

The two officials stressed the need for broadening and bolstering of Tehran-Havana ties in all areas.

Majles Passes Bill To Merge Three Ministries

LD1004161194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The bill on merging the Ministries of Industry, Heavy Industry, and Mines and Metals, and the formation of the Ministry of Mines and Industry, was approved in today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Radio on Amassing Forces in Kordestan

NC1004072694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Kordestan, as the barricade of freedom, has always been a thorn in the side of the ruling regime. From the very outset, the Islamic Republic has used all of its hellish strength to crush the national-democratic movement of our people and has not spared any crime or any violence—neither military, police, nor political—in this effort. Nevertheless, we see how, after 15 years of suppression, the Kordestan movement continues to stand strongly and powerfully in the struggle against reaction, and that the banner of this struggle continues to be in the powerful hands of the Democratic Party of Kordestan.

The Islamic Republic sees itself at an impasse any way it turns and it also is well aware that one day Kordestan will explode like a bomb and will shake the unpopular rule of the regime. Thus, thinking that it can prevent such a fate, it once again wants to send even more forces to Kordestan to further militarize this area and to display its military strength in this part of our country.

However, such a military expedition and such an amassing of forces in Kordestan not only does not show the strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran but, on the contrary, shows the regime's helplessness vis-a-vis the problems of Kordestan and the other (?national problems) in the country.

The regime is facing many problems because of the reduction in oil prices, its lack of credibility stemming from its inability to repay its foreign debts, the private sector's control over the foreign exchange market, the devaluation of the rial, because of the closure of a large number of (?plants and factories), and because of [word indistinct] (?shortages). Meanwhile, the people's dissatisfaction and aversion are growing. Unemployment and high prices are (?threatening) [words indistinct], and the regime's isolation on the international scenes and the West's pressures on the regime have [words indistinct] the ruling regime.

It is because of all these things that the Islamic Republic has decided to equip its armed forces more than ever and to prepare itself to confront possible incidents. The military maneuvers that were recently carried out by the law-enforcement forces were also because of this.

Clearly, there is a powerful popular movement in Kordestan. The regime lacks a (?political) base in this region, and Kordestan is the weakest link in the chain of the Islamic Republic's rule. So now the regime thinks that by a military expedition and by accelerating the militarization of Kordestan it can (?overcome these problems). However, the experience of the past 15 years has shown that supression and violence cannot destroy the struggle by the Kurdish masses, but that this struggle will become stronger each day.

We firmly believe that one day the military and police forces of the regime will melt like snowmen from the heat of the struggles by the Kurdish people. We thus assure the regime's officials that this time too, as in the past, they are making a mistake in their calculations on the Kordestan problem.

Paris Embassy Denies Arms Supplied to Algeria's FIS

LD0904131194 Tehran IRNA in English 1222 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, 9 April, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Paris has denied allegations that Iran ever provided any arms to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) of Algeria.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Iranian embassy denied claims raised by the French daily 'LE FIGARO' on Iran's possible involvement in arms supply to FIS.

According to official reports released here an Israeli-made assault rifle has been found in the house of an Algerian national in Paris which was searched by the French police.

In the past, certain segments of western mass media have tried to justify the West's support for the military-installed government in Algeria by accusing foreign countries of involvement in the Islamic movement of the Algerian people.

ABRAR Criticizes Minister's Remarks on Satellite Antennae

NC0804161294 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] It took us 15 years to answer society's questions on what has come to be known as a "video." It was a question that may never have been raised or answered. [as published] After 15 years, video clubs named cultural products stores and an organization affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance were set up, and a magazine named "Video and Satellite" was published.

The video had remained an underground phenomenon for 15 years and now, when it is displayed in store windows, it has been drained in every possible way. This is why the cultural products stores were not greeted very enthusiastically. The video films had already exerted their destructive effect before they became public. In those days, the video cassettes circulated around the clock, from hand to hand, and perhaps this is still happening.

The interior minister said in an interview: "The cabinet is discussing the confiscation of all unauthorized satellite antennae from rooftops and the Interior Ministry will take steps in this direction shortly."

He said: "I give my word that in the next two months, with the forts of the law enforcement forces, all the satellite antennae in Tehran will be collected."

Is this the way to combat the satellite [programs]? Can we not perceive the difference in the words and deeds of the interior minister? If the satellite programs can be considered immoral and contrary to values, why is the magazine "Video and Satellite" published? Why are we still acting defensively? When the first satellite dish appeared on the rooftop, was it so minute that it could not be seen? Now two years later it is being decided that since a certain Arab country has announced a punishment for having satellite dishes, we should also think on the same lines.

When is the satellite authorized and when is it unauthorized?

This commentary should not be considered a case in favor of satellite dishes on rooftops, but why was this done so late?

The satellite is an international phenomenon and cannot be restricted in one region or even on one continent. One must view it in the international context and not as a

minor issue. Satellite technology is progressing by leaps and bounds and perhaps by the next year satellite dishes with a diameter of only 35 centimeters may flood the regional and domestic market. Then what can be done? No promises will be of any use then.

Pakistan

Foreign Secretary on Nuclear Talks With Talbott

BK1004083994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The U.S. deputy secretary of state, Mr. Strobe Talbott, said that his visit to Pakistan was most productive and useful. The United States shares with Pakistan the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in South Asian region. Talking to newsmen at Chaklala base before his departure for Europe, Mr. Talbott said Pakistan and the United States would pursue their approach toward nonproliferation in South Asian region and on a variety of subjects. He made it clear that the U.S. approach to nonproliferation was multidimensional. He said he has a great degree of optimism for achieving concrete results in the future that will serve the security and political interests of Pakistan.

The foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh, said there was no question of an agreement on nuclear nonproliferation, but discussions will continue in order to arrive at a mutually agreed approach. He said the two sides agreed that there should be capping, reduction, and elimination of nuclear weapons from South Asia as well as weapons of mass destruction. The foreign secretary said Pakistan explained its stand and position on the nuclear issue and Mr. Talbott certainly has a much clearer understanding of Pakistan's position.

Accord Signed for Purchase of 6 PRC K-8 Jet Trainers

BK0904144894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan and China signed today an agreement for the purchase of six K-8 jet trainers for Pakistan Air Force. The aircraft will be delivered in July this year. The agreement was signed in Rawalpindi by Director General, Military Procurement, A.B.M. Mozammil Sayeed and Mr. Liu Gou Min, president of China National Aerotechnology Import and Export Corporation on behalf of their countries. The K-8 aircraft has been codeveloped by Nanchang Aircraft Manufacturing Company of Aviation Industries of China and Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra. Later, talking to newsmen, the secretary of defense production, Mazhar Rafi, said the aircraft is a symbol of our dedicated pursuit to develop an indigenous aviation industry. Mr. Liu Gou Min said the K-8 jet trainer has a great potential in international market. He said several countries in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe have shown interest in the aircraft.

Iran's Nateq-Nuri Arrives for Economic, Political Talks

LD1004110594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Mr. [Ahmad] Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, arrived in Islamabad today at the head of a senior political and economic delegation following an invitation from his Pakistani counterpart. Our colleague reports from Pakistan:

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] On the aims of his visit, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said:

[Begin Nateq-Nuri recording] We are going to discuss economic issues during this visit. Therefore, the esteemed petroleum minister [Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i] and the honorable roads and transport minister [Akbar Torkan] are accompanying me on this visit. We will discuss the construction of a joint oil refinery and issues relating to gas and gas pipelines. We will also discuss the extension of the Baft-Bandar Abbas-Zahedan railway, as well as ways of expanding our relations.

In the political field, we will discuss political issues of the region and the friendly ties between us and Pakistan. We hope, God willing, that this visit will be effective in both the economic and political fields and in cooperation in international organizations. [end recording]

[Announcer] According to our correspondent, following his arrival, Mr. Nateq-Nuri met and held talks in Islamabad with Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani prime minister. At that meeting, issues of mutual interest were discussed. Both sides underlined the need to expand bilateral ties in all fields.

During his stay in Pakistan, Mr. Nateq-Nuri will also visit Lahore and Karachi and other cultural and economic centers of Pakistan.

Meets Prime Minister Bhutto

BK1004145394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The speaker of Iranian parliament, Hojjat Ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, has castigated the atrocities being perpetrated on Muslims in occupied Kashmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Palestine during a call on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. The Iranian speaker expressed his admiration for Pakistan's principled stand on various issues facing the Islamic world like Kashmir, Bosnia, and Palestine. He said the Iranian ministers and his delegation would discuss with their counterparts the implementation of major projects such as gas pipeline and Pakistan-Iran oil refinery.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said relations between Iran and Pakistan are very strong. She said that all the projects identified for cooperation between the two countries would be completed. The speaker of the

National Assembly Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and Deputy Speaker Syed Zafar Ali Shah were also present during the meeting.

Financial Market, Assembly Ties Outlined

BK1104044494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed on a proposal to set up an Islamic financial common market [as heard]. An accord to this effect was reached in Islamabad yesterday during the meeting between Yusuf Raza Gilani, National Assembly speaker, and 'Ali Akbar Nateq, the head of the Iranian parliamentary delegation and the speaker of the Iranian Consultative Assembly.

The accords provide for the establishment of a separate organization comprising the Muslim member nations of the Interparliamentary Union and Economic Cooperation Organization and a conference for female parliament members from Muslim countries. At the meeting, the Iranian parliament speaker condemned the hegemonic trends appearing in international relations.

Nateq also called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari.

Meets With Leghari

NC1104070994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Islamic Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri met Pakistani President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in Islamabad yesterday. The two sides called for greater effort toward implementing joint projects in the construction of railroads, a refinery in Pakistan, and the sale and transport of gas to Pakistan. Our Islamabad correspondent reports:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Nateq-Nuri stressed the need to set up a common market among the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] member countries. The Pakistani president also stated that the ECO would provide appropriate scope for using the capabilities of the member countries and Islamic countries.

During the meeting the two sides reached agreement on establishing a committee to explore ways and means of setting up an Islamic interparliamentary group. Similarly, the two countries' officials welcomed a special session of women members of Islamic countries' parliaments and called for broadening cooperation between the Iranian and Pakistani Parliaments.

Speaker Nateq-Nuri is also expected to visit the cities of Lahore and Karachi, the two most important cultural and economic centers of Pakistan, during his stay in Pakistan. Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamabad. [end recording]

Addresses National Assembly

LD1104095794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] On the second day of his visit to Pakistan, Mr. Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, today addressed the Pakistani National Assembly on the issues facing the Islamic world. He described the all-encompassing cultural and propaganda onslaught of the West against Islam and the West's double standards toward the world of Islam as a warning, indicative of the policy of confronting and attacking Islam. He stressed: In today's world, the message of Islamic countries is that they should defend the revivalist movement of Islam and never bow to the pressures and political and nonpolitical propaganda of the world of blasphemy.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for any proposal that encompasses the rights of the Kashmiri people.

UN Emissary, President Discuss Finding Afghan Solution

NC1104063094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Mahmud Mestiri, the head of the special UN delegation to Afghanistan, met Pakistani President Farooq Leghari yesterday. According to the Central News Unit, the meeting in Islamabad discussed ways and means to reach an amicable solution to end the civil war in Afghanistan.

Indians Fire at Azad Kashmir Villages; 1 Killed, 4 Wounded

BK1004092394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] According to a report received in Rawalpindi yesterday, one person was killed and four seriously wounded as a result of unprovoked shootings by Indian forces at the border villages of Azad Kashmir near the Line of Control. In the Chilas village of the (Sherikot) subsector, a man named Jan Mohammad was killed instantly when a bullet struck him in the chest. He was working in his field at that time. Another incident took place in the Leghari village in the Hajipir area, where a woman, Nazira Bibi, was shot in the neck. In the Tarkundi village of the Nakial subsector, a man named Mohammad Tariq received bullet wounds to his right arm and was rushed to the Civil Hospital, Nakial. Yet another violation of the cease-fire occurred at (Sarjivar) where a man named Ghulam Nabi received bullet wounds on one of his legs. Rahmat Jan, wife of Mohammad Bashir, was hit by a bullet in her waist and rushed to the Combined Military Hospital, Rawalakot, in a critical condition. She also belonged to the Chilas village of the (Sherikot) subsector.

Sri Lanka

Official Blames LTTE for Bombing of Colombo Hotels

BK0904083694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0724 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By Anosh Ahamath]

[Text] COLOMBO, April 9 (AFP)—Security was tightened in the Sri Lankan capital Saturday after suspected Tamil guerillas carried out a bombing campaign aimed at disrupting Sri Lanka's booming tourism industry, officials said.

Two people died and three were wounded in overnight explosions near the Mount Lavinia beach resort, at the deluxe Colombo Marriott, Taj Samudra and the three-star Sapphire Hotel, officials said.

Another bomb went off Saturday morning at the Zoological Gardens. Despite the large number of visitors, there were no casualties because the blast occurred in an isolated marshy area.

No foreigners were wounded in the blasts, police said.

K. H. J. Wijayadasa, secretary to President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, said the government believed the attacks were carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which is fighting for a separate state in the northeast.

"From first indications, from the pattern of explosions, it looks as if it is a LTTE job," Wijayadasa told reporters shortly after inspecting a badly damaged toilet at the Marriott.

The bombs went off simultaneously at Marriott, Taj, frequented by western tourists, and the Sapphire, which is "usually patronised" by minority Tamils from the LTTE stronghold of northern Jaffna.

Wijayadasa said that two suspected LTTE rebels died when a bomb they were carrying exploded prematurely. Another accomplice was seriously wounded in the blast, he said. A Tamil couple, guests at Sapphire, were also injured.

Wijayadasa said that Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe presided over a high-level security meeting at which it was decided to tighten security at all hotels in and around Colombo.

He said the explosions were aimed at driving out tourists from the Indian Ocean island nation.

"Obviously, this is aimed at disrupting tourism and causing a certain element of panic. But I think we have escaped fairly unscathed," Wijayadasa said.

Francis Keenan, the resident general manager of Marriott, which is part of the American Marriott chain, said that there had been no panic because the blast occurred inside a toilet outside the dining hall.

"The guests hardly knew what had happened. They have taken it in the correct spirit," said Keenan.

State Minister for Tourism Gamini Lokuge said he hoped the tourism industry would not be affected as a result of the latest blasts but said that the authorities have taken "very tight security measures" to prevent any harm to foreigners.

"I don't think the industry will be affected. To my knowledge no guest has decided to leave," Lokuge said.

Lokuge said the industry anticipated a record 450,000 tourists to visit the island this year. About 120,000 tourists have already arrived in the first three months of the year, he said.

However, nervous hoteliers and travel agents said they were adopting a wait-and-see attitude for the moment.

"This is the kind of thing that frightens most tourists. They are all sensitive to such incidents, especially the Japanese," a senior travel agent official said.

Sri Lanka's tourism industry took a heavy battering between 1983 and 1989, when Tamil guerrilla bomb attacks and a separate anti- government campaign by extremist Sinhalese forced tourists to keep away from the island.

But the trade began recovering fast after the military crushed the Sinhalese insurgency in 1989.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.